TOP OF THE HILL

Volume 14 | Issue 5 | May 26, 2009

Atlanta: A Trip to Remember

by McLean Hudson

Thursday, April 2nd: We, the eighth-grade class, had been looking forward to it since the beginning of the school year, and it finally arrived. Just short of one-hundred and twenty sleep-deprived eighth graders and eight chaperones loaded onto buses and a van in preparation for the ride down to Atlanta. Spirits were high as the two buses voted for the movies to watch, which ranged from *Zoolander* to *Never Back Down*.

Upon arrival, we ate at the single most famous fast food restaurant and pride of the Atlanta dining industry, The Varsity. We discovered we were just behind the rush (about a thousand people), but no one really minded waiting. After all hunger was sated, we loaded up and headed to the shopping center designated "Underground Atlanta." Junior School scholars eagerly explored the vast expanse of utterly useless trinkets. One could be found buying a huge belt-buckle, a flat-bill cap, or even shoes, though some preferred to save their money and just sit with friends. As we departed, and all the teachers were quite satisfied that no ninja-stars had been purchased, the convoy made its way back to the La Quinta Inn. Towards dinner time, we loaded up again and headed to the food court of Lenox Square for our evening meal.

Following this excursion to the mall was the main event of the day: ESPN Zone. We stormed up the stairs, game cards in hand, and exploded onto a glorious scene. Sports games were everywhere, and there was a boy

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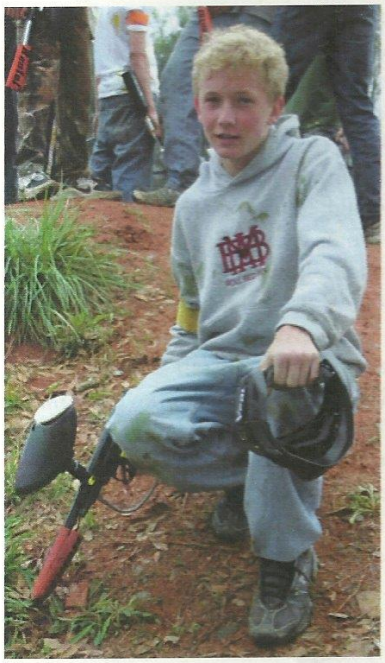
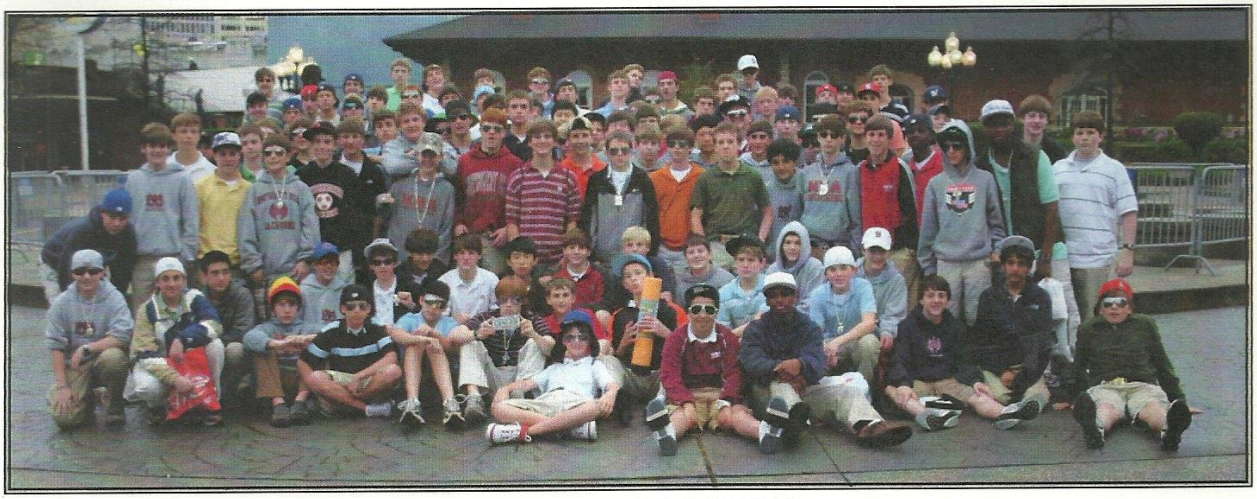


Preparing for battle



MBA CLASS OF 2013

ATLANTA

or more ready to try each one. Be it a virtual reality golf game, ping-pong, or horse racing, there was a machine there for all interests. Unfortunately, many people used up the credits on their game cards much too soon and were forced to watch others. The largest crowd was gathered around a certain "Bass Hunter 2000," with Wilson Johnson at the helm, er, rod that is. For some reason unbeknownst to me, this activity was a huge hit, and cheers for Wilson could be heard throughout the upstairs, and the gathering was large enough for a wave to make it around once or twice. The new sensation was ended, however, when Bass Hunter 2000 was mysteriously unplugged.

After a good night's sleep that was abundant in all areas, excluding sleep of course, we layered up and loaded up for paintball. With our gear and safety instructions, everyone was ready to play. Even in the first couple of games, the day's worst welts were had. The "worst wound" awards went to Penn Murfee and Jack Benton, both of whom suffered close-range, blood-drawing attacks by Coach Cooper. Many players were a little too trigger happy and used up all their ammo. Those who were slightly more patient were not rewarded, as their paintballs seemed to disappear between games. After several hours of annihilating our beloved classmates, we headed back to the buses, almost all in good spirits.

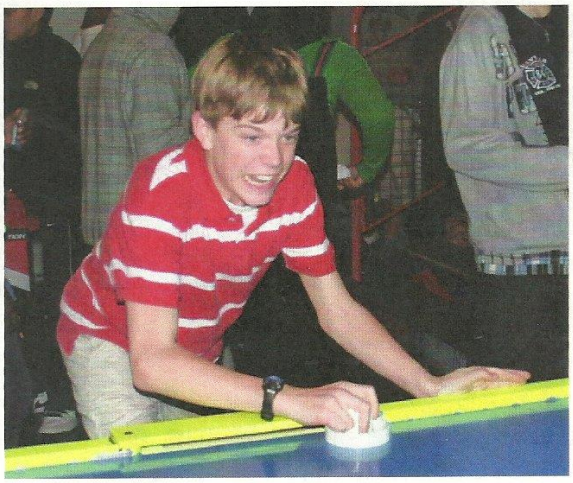
That night was the Braves game. I personally cannot say much about the game myself, for I wandered most of the time. Many of us made time to explore the Cartoon Network playhouse, while others preferred batting simulators and pitching with radar guns. As everyone made his way back to the assigned seating area at the end of the eighth inning, we witnessed the Padres put together a come-back, but it fell short on a long fly ball, and the Braves hung on to win 3-1.

Saturday was the last day of our trip, and we were ready for Six Flags. As the gates opened, MBA students rushed the roller coasters and waited in line for death-defying loops, dizzying corkscrews, and heart-pumping drops on rides such as Goliath, Georgia Scorcher, and Superman. Others, not quite so fond of those steel death traps, were satisfied with bumper cars and

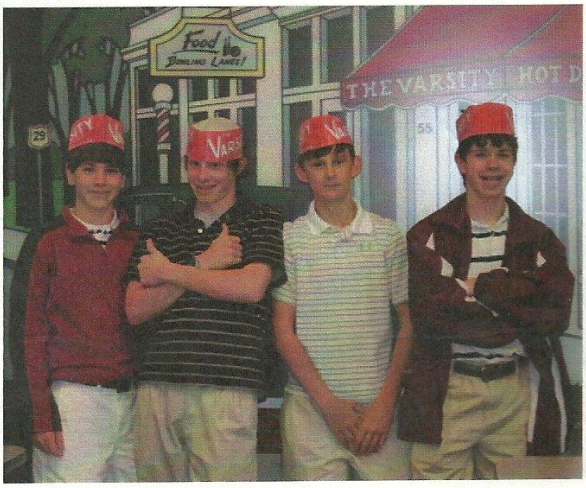
Sam free-fallin'

carnival games. Most of us left the park early, having ridden what there was to ride, and relaxed on the bus as the stragglers filed in. Still no one was thinking ahead to the end of the trip, and the last bus ride was as fun as the first.

After three days of so much with my classmates, I was ready to do it again. Unfortunately, I will not get that chance. Thus I write this article for you seventh graders; get excited for what's in store. It'll be well worth the wait. For you, it's another perk of being an eighth grader to look forward to, but for us, it's another one to remember.



"Hurry up! I need You Tube! Where's Wilson?"



WOW! That's service!

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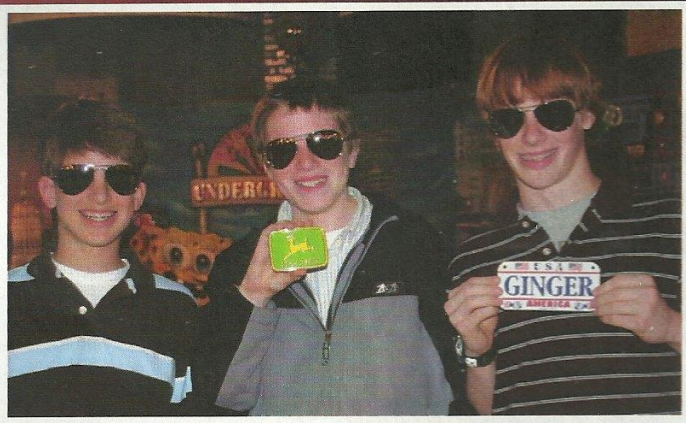
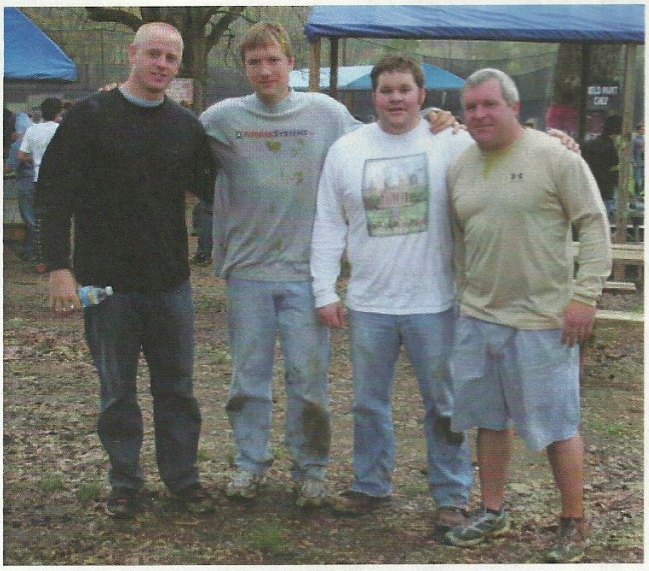
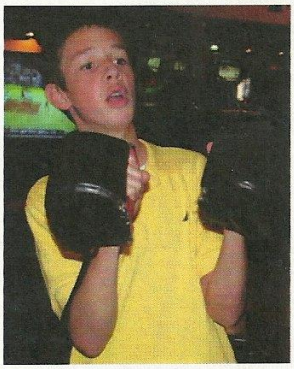


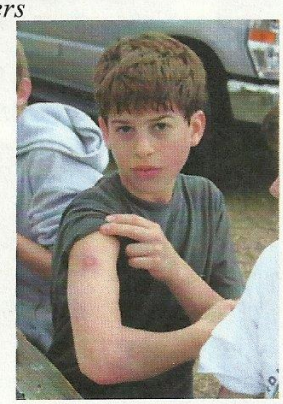
The Ginger knows his place.



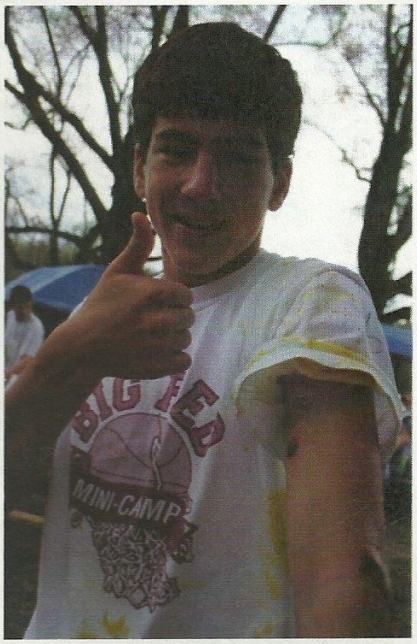
Band of Brothers



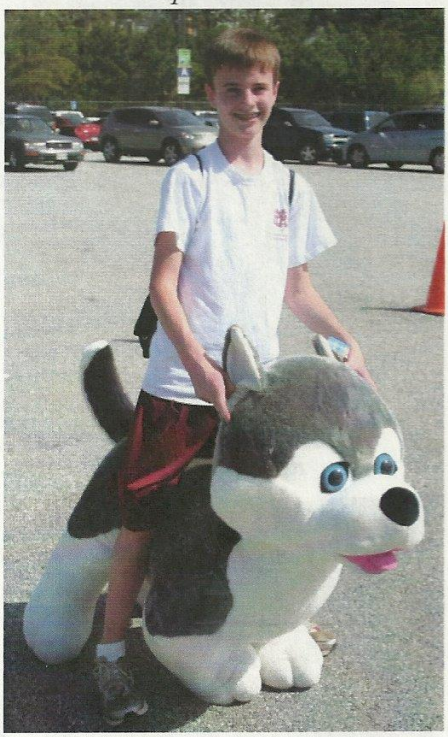
Dodge, duck, dip, dive, and dodge.



Purple Heart #2

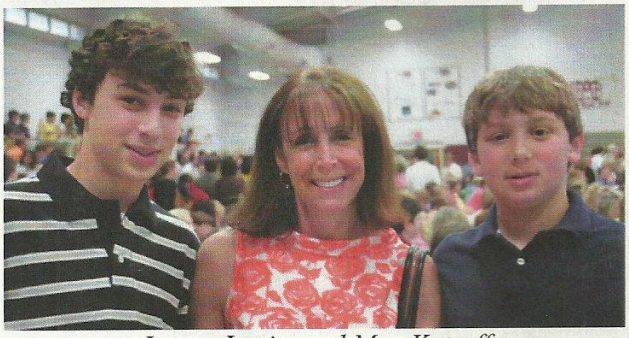


Purple Heart #1

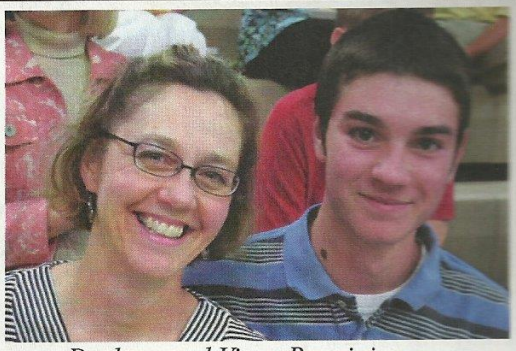


Three rides up, three rides down-- hi ho, husky away!

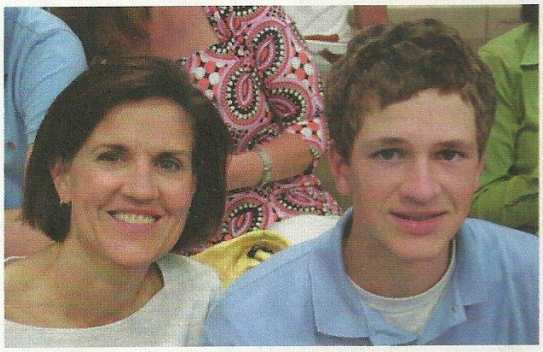
BREAKFAST. . .



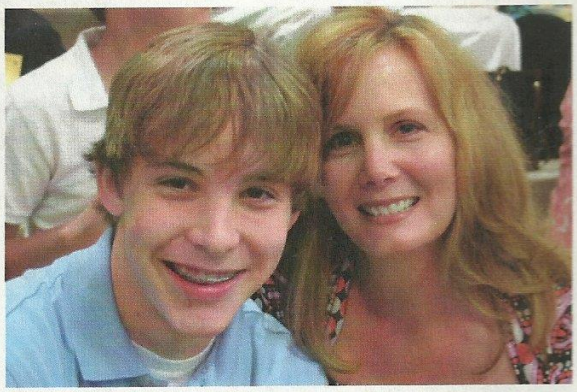
Jason, Jamie, and Max Katseff



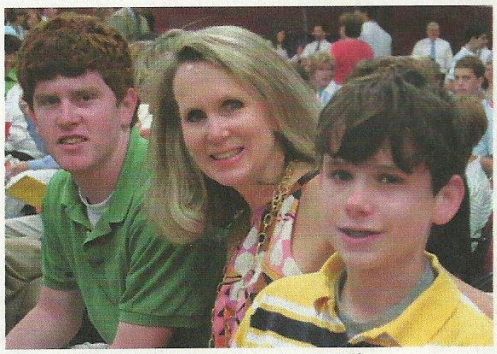
Darlene and Vince Panvini



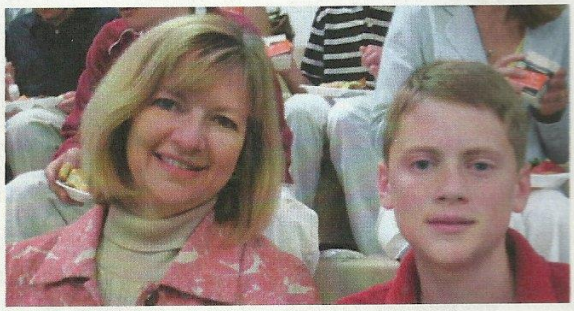
Lisa and Lucas Littlejohn



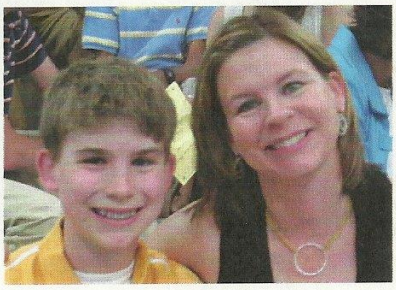
Andrew and Sally Einstman



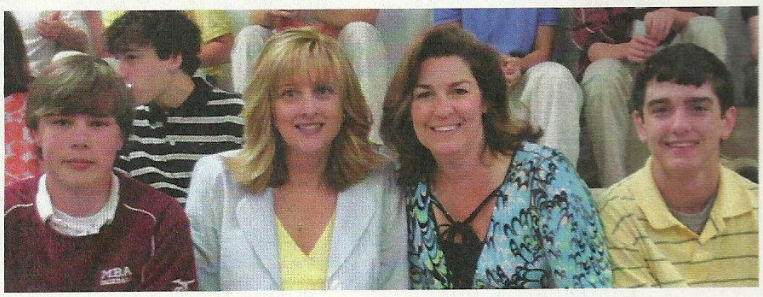
Rob, Beth, and John Higham



Mimi and Sam Hurd



Charlie and Elizabeth Hawkins



Clint and Leslie Robinson with Martha and Jody Gorham

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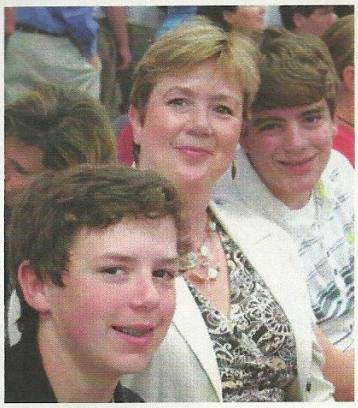
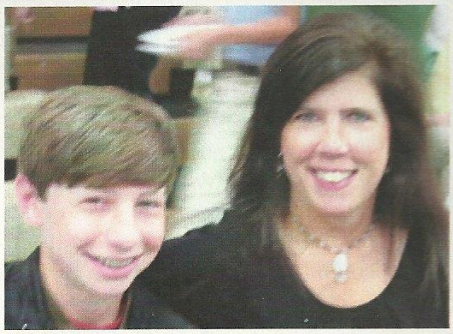


Clark, Cheryl, and Chris Hooks



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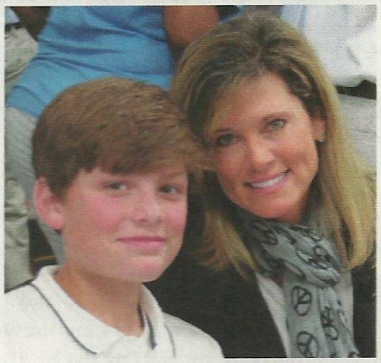
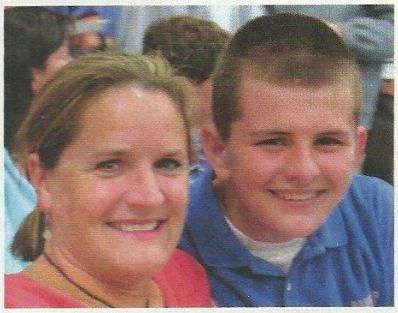
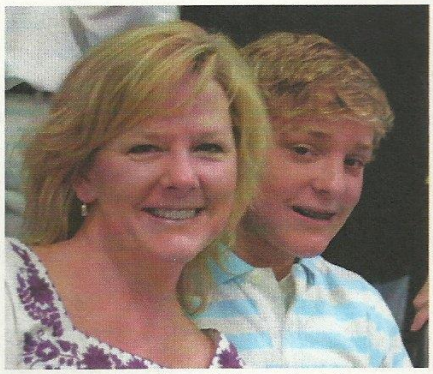


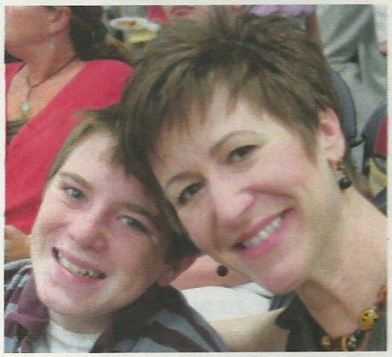
Elliott and Kim Morrissey



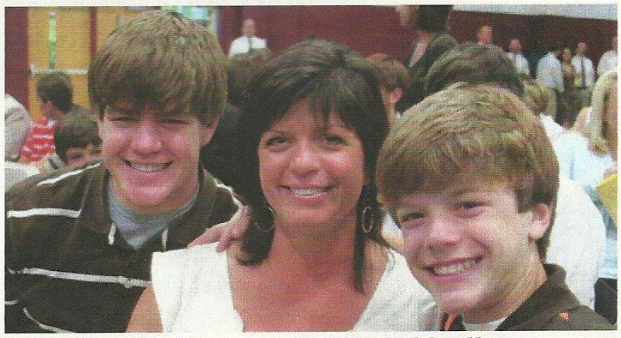
Allyson and McKay Proctor



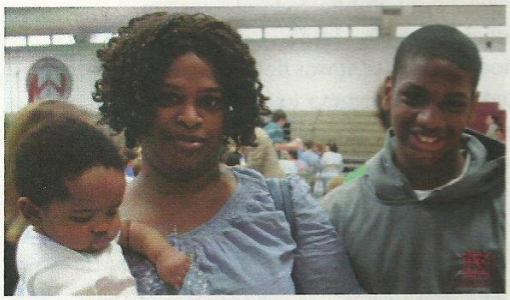
Mary Loch and Sam Smith



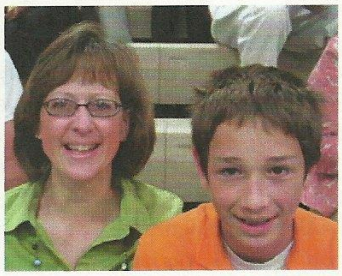
Hunter and Sherie Guye



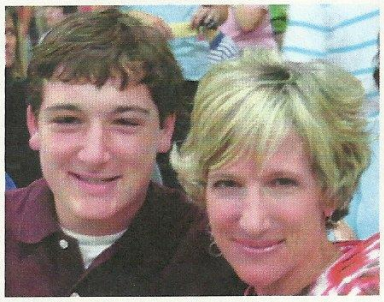
Connor, Maria, and Colin Caldwell



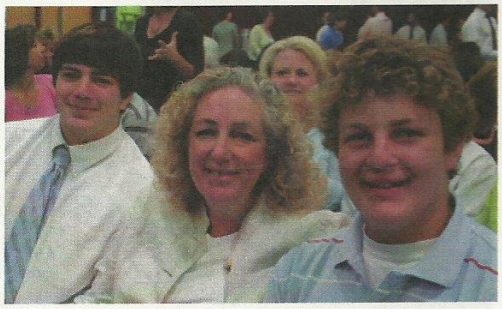
William, Jenifer Harris, and JeTarii Donald



Madeleine and Nathan Fouts



Sam and Ashley Edwards



Miller, Melinda, and James Higgins

ON THE HILL

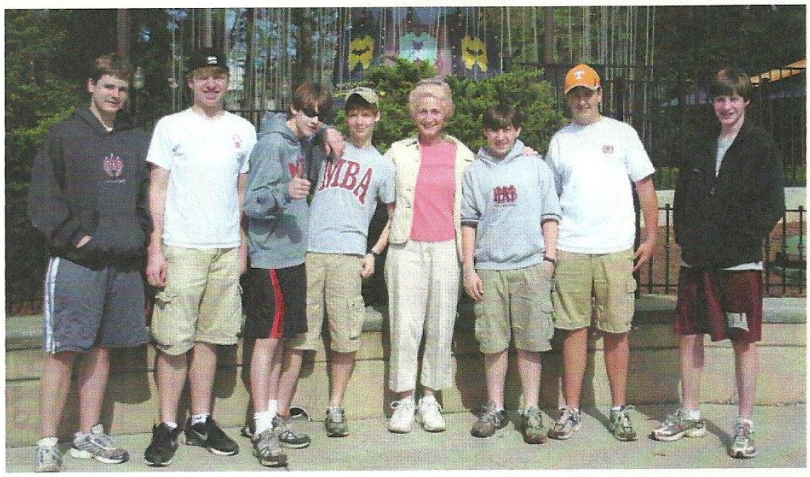
Best of Luck, Mrs. Pettus

by Hayden Deakins

While running around Massey like a wildman at break one day, I learned some rather shocking news: Mrs. Pettus was retiring at the end of this school year. Immediately I began to think about questioning her on this decision; for a teacher so dedicated and enthusiastic day after day in the classroom, she does not look at all to me like someone who should retire from her job. Reluctantly, I accepted the unbelievable fact and arranged to sit down with Mrs. Pettus so that I could ask her a few questions about her impressive forty-year career as a teacher.

Mrs. Pettus is a product of the Nashville Public Schools system, graduating from Isaac Litton High School. However, it was not her original intention to become a teacher; instead she planned on majoring in business. One of Mrs. Pettus' teachers in college took an interest in her and ultimately inspired her to become a teacher herself. "I liked her teaching style," she told me with a nostalgic expression. "I enjoyed student teaching, applied for a job, and my career began." And so, Mrs. Pettus' teaching career took off in 1968, just two days after college graduation from Lipscomb University.

Her first teaching position was at South Cobb High School in Austell, Georgia. After a brief stint in Cobb County, Mrs. Pettus took a year off from teaching to begin her Master's degree at Peabody. She was right back to teaching in 1970 when she received a job at DuPont High School in Hermitage, where she taught tenth-grade English for an astounding fourteen years. In 1984, due to DuPont's closure as a high school, she took a job at Glencliff High School, teaching eleventh-grade English. After sixteen additional years of teaching, she was eligible for retirement from the Metro school system, but amazingly, was not ready to leave the classroom! A good friend of Mrs. Pettus, Mrs. Libby Bourland, suggested that she apply for a teaching position at MBA. Even though Mrs. Pettus believed that she would not receive a position, she was hired as an eighth-grade English teacher in 2000.



Mrs. Pettus on her final eighth-grade Atlanta trip

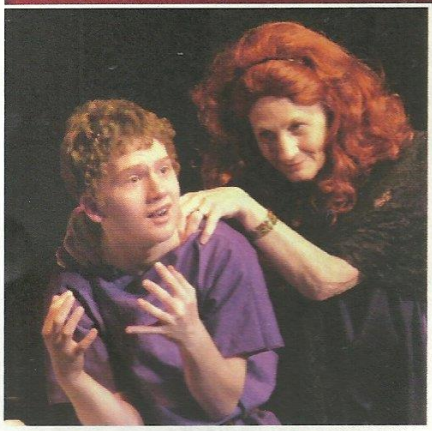
Upon telling me the history of her teaching career, I was absolutely stunned: forty years of teaching, and it looked like she loved her job more and more every day. I thought to myself, "Any teacher should go absolutely crazy after forty years of teaching the most stubborn people on earth--high schoolers and middle schoolers." However, Mrs. Pettus acknowledged that she taught some very bright, hard-working students in her classes, and that she learned as much from her hundreds of students as they learned from her. "Once I became used to the distinct personality of an eighth grader, I really enjoyed teaching at MBA," she observed. One of the most challenging and pleasant experiences Mrs. Pettus recalled in her years at MBA was Dr. Seay's convincing her to play the roles of Aunt Polly and Mama in the Junior School plays; singing the solos was a bit of a challenge for her, but being on stage with her students was quite fun.

Mrs. Pettus enjoyed all the eighth-grade curriculum at MBA, especially teaching *Julius Caesar* to students who were simultaneously learning about Caesar in their Latin classes.

When I asked Mrs. Pettus about what was the most rewarding part of her job, she answered with a genuine smile, "For a student to get it: to improve as a writer, or to realize that reading is fun and not just homework, or to appreciate a poem. I also really enjoyed seeing my students win awards for creative writing assignments."

Mrs. Pettus' classes are characterized by daily active participation by students and are based more on student performance than daily lectures. Her unique teaching style was developed from a two-week

ON THE HILL



Mama Pettus demonstrates her favorite classroom management technique!

workshop called Pacesetter English, which she took in the early part of her teaching career. Pacesetter instructors emphasized that teachers should be facilitators rather than lecturers. This workshop, along with her observation of outstanding colleagues, changed her approach to teaching more than anything Mrs. Pettus had ever done.

I finally asked Mrs. Pettus how she felt about leaving MBA. She answered with the same response that I had predicted: "Bittersweet--I'll look forward to a less hectic lifestyle, but I'll miss the interaction with students and colleagues. My best friends have always been other teachers. I'll enjoy returning to campus to catch up with my Massey family." Her retirement plans include sitting on her front porch swing, walking with her dogs, working in her garden, completing crossword puzzles, reading, traveling in the fall (hopefully to the Grand Canyon), and volunteering, probably in a Nashville public school. "I know for sure that I won't be getting up at 5:30 in the morning or grading papers every night!" she remarked with a chuckle.

Mrs. Pettus, MBA will most definitely miss your accomplished and experienced presence and wishes you the best of luck in your very well-deserved retirement.

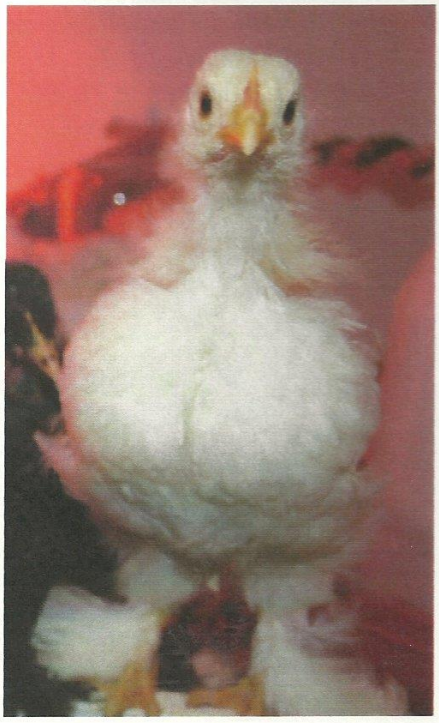
Junior School Agriculture Status Report: Mr. Cooper has Chickens!

by Jackson Crook

Throughout much of the history of mankind, chickens have played an important role in providing delicious sustenance across the world. The Vietnamese first domesticated the chicken nearly ten-thousand years ago; then the practice of domesticating chickens spread to and proliferated in India, and from India traveled to Persia. These fowl have been known as "the bird which lays everyday" in Egypt since the 18th dynasty in 1550 B.C.

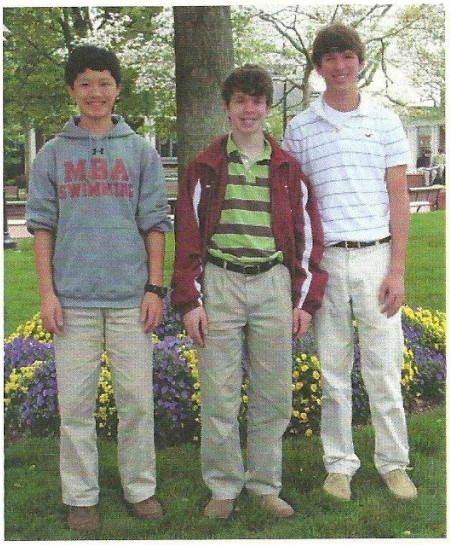
Now, the inevitable has finally occurred: the miracle of the chicken has made its way to the grounds of MBA. Mr. Cooper recently acquired his own chickens. Mr. Cooper's chickens are bantams, a generally smaller specification of chicken, yet with more varying colors and breeds. Mr. Cooper has built a coop and a portable cage with no bottom to allow his chicks to feed in a somewhat free-range manner until they grow up.

Hopefully Mr. Cooper's hens will go on to produce countless eggs and bring honor to MBA like every good chicken should.

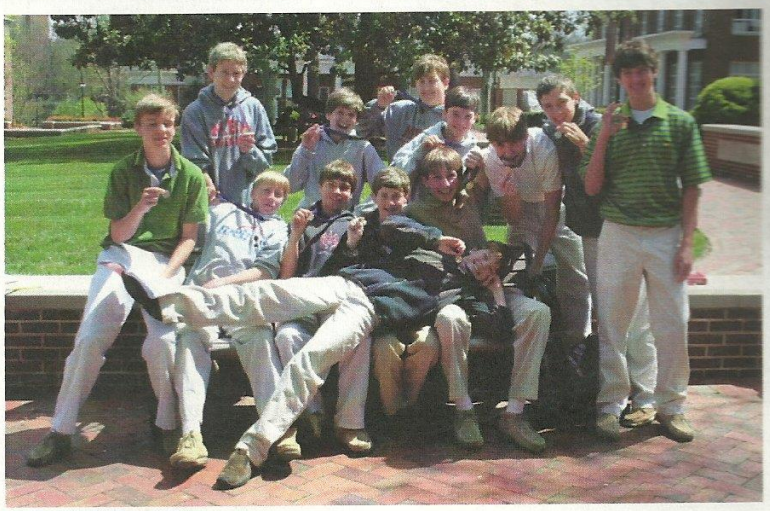


Goldie Cooper

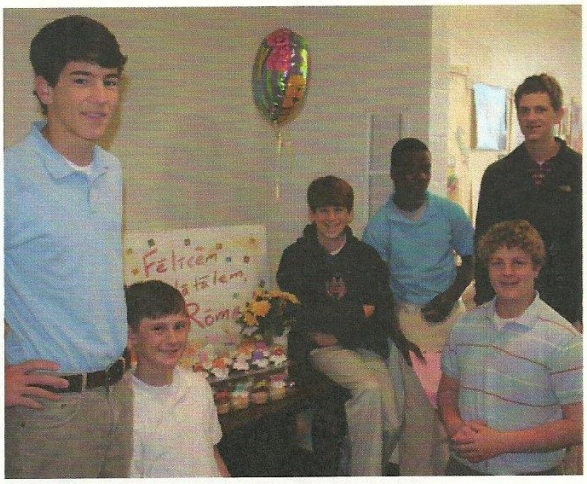
ON THE HILL



In AMC-8 competition, Tom Bu finished 1st, Hunter Tidwell 2nd, and Will Campbell 3rd.
In AMC-10 competition, Hunter finished 1st and Tom 2nd.



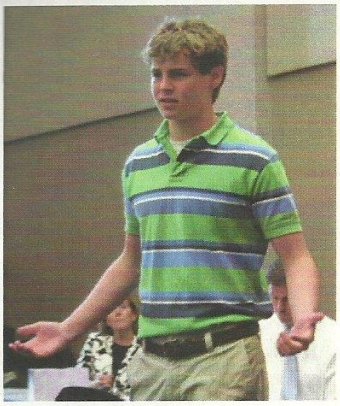
Latin I students proudly display their medals. Over 11% of the eighth-grade class wrote perfect papers. Congratulations, Latin scholars!

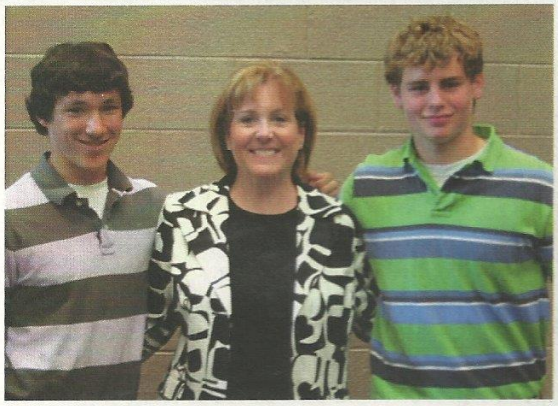


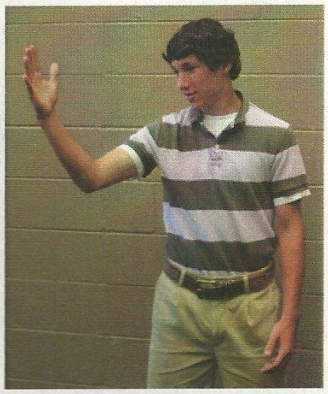
Mrs. Christeson's homeroom celebrates Rome's birthday.

For the fifth consecutive year, MBA athletes won the Robert Inman HVAC All-Sports Trophy! Congratulations to all the players and coaches.

ON THE HILL







Whit Emerson and Colton Black were the finalists in the third annual Poetry Recitation Contest, organized by Mrs. Cherie Roberts. Whit recited Antony's funeral speech from ***Julius Caesar****; Colton recited "O Captain, My Captain." Both students gave outstanding performances, and the judges selected Whit as the winner. This contest recognizes April as National Poetry Month.*

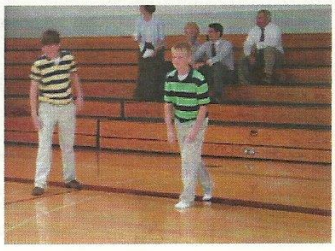
DodgeBall for a Cause

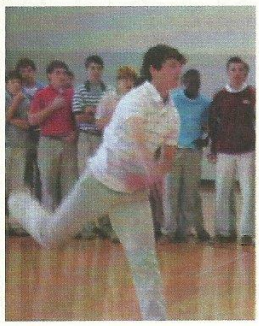
By Gray Bryant

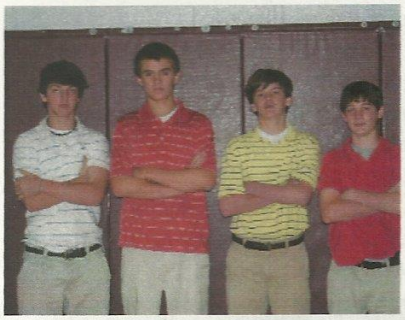
Will Campbell, Robby Mills, and I, Gray Bryant, decided to organize a dodgeball tournament to raise money for the Lou Gehrig's Disease Foundation. Lou Gehrig's disease, also known as ALS or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, attacks the muscle groups resulting in progressive weakness and loss of function of all muscles. There is no cure for this disease.

Fifty-seven teams were formed and competed in the tournament. The seventh-grade champion team, with the unique name "Team 15," was made up of Hayes Cooper, Gaines Garrett, Christopher Burrus, and Duncan Smith. Unfortunately, Duncan was sick on game day. The mighty three played the eighth-grade champions, "G-Unit All-Stars" (Ryan Potter, Dylan Hall, Parrish Preston, and Gray Bryant). Within minutes, the G-Unit All-Stars claimed victory and earned a pizza party for the entire eighth grade.

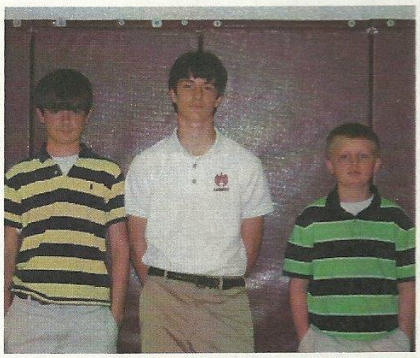
The dodge ball tournament was a huge success, raising $1140 to assist in the fight against Lou Gehrig's Disease.







The G-Unit All-Stars: Tournament Champions!



"Team 15" sans Duncan: Seventh-grade winnners

Last Will and Testament

CLASS OF 2013

I, **Clint Smith**, leave to **German Martinez** the leadership of the track squad.

We, **Hayden Deakins** and **James Higgins**, leave to **Mr. Thurmond's math class** our amazing before-class transformer battles.

I, **Will McFadden**, leave to **Nilay Patel**, **Chase Duffey**, and **Rem Houghton** the right to beat up on the seventh-grade B-team soccer players.

I, **Paul Moore**, leave to all seventh graders...nothing [jp]. I leave to **Wilson Vaughan** my ability to be the worst joke teller ever, but one of the funniest guys in the class.

I, **McKay Proctor**, leave to **Russell Carpenter** the ability to high-five the cool seventh graders.

I, **Chandler Burgess**, leave to **Elliot Morrissey** all the coolness in the world so he can have even more coolness.

I, **Parrish Preston**, leave to **Sean Kinch** and the rising Junior School **tennis team** a life-time supply of Fruit Snacks.

I, **Christian Sargent**, leave to **Braden Welborn** my invisible, intangible, silent pet alligator, Marzipan. Enjoy.

I, **Falkner Werkhaven**, leave to **John Higham** the power over seventh graders...and beastliness at climbing.

I, **Kevin Wang**, leave to **Jalen Hurd** the responsibilities of pursuing life with the utmost excitement and of being the beastliest seventh grader that ever lived.

I, **Lucas Littlejohn**, leave to **Tejas Reddy** the ability to never, ever stop smiling and the ability to recognize true African warriors.

I, **Chris Hooks**, leave to **Sam Papel** the title of "King of the Rube" for the Junior School.

I, **Hamilton Millwee**, leave to **Rahul Ramana** the amazing ability to do the "Millwee Shuffle" and a package of AAA batteries. I also leave to **Mr. Thurmond's future class** the ability to mess with the future **D. White**.

I, **Nicholas Green**, leave the next **editor-in-chief** some advice: don't be sick for *Top of the Hill* meetings.

I, **Hunter Crabtree**, leave to **German Martinez** the secret entrance to the best study spot in Massey.

I, **Brandon Key**, leave to **Jashon Robertson** the ability to play real football, not the kiddy stuff he thinks is good.

I, **Clay Ramsey**, leave to **Joe Werthan** my defensive lacrosse skills, my pasta-eating skills, and everything else that requires greatness.

I, **Penn Murfee**, leave to **Jack Coyle** the eighth-grade skater title. I also leave to **Luke Cochran** my Docta Luv responsiblities.

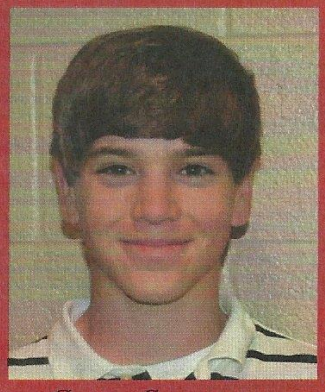
I, **Tom Kaiser**, leave to **Colton Black** the heavenly job that comes with running the 400 meter dash in track.

I, **John Tully**, leave to **Mac MacDonald** the representation of Grassland Middle and the leadership of the Junior School singers.

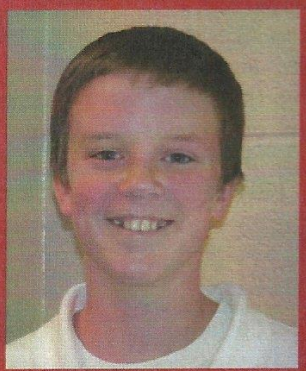
I, **Colin Caldwell**, leave to **Christopher Burrus** the awesomeness required to have the lead role in the Junior School play.

2009-10 Honor Council Representatives

Will McFadden



George Swenson



Will Singer

CLASS PROPHECIES

Trip Adams - veterinarian in Ohio
Kamran Ansari - U.S. Ambassador
Mattison Asher - starts barbershop specializing in afros
Mohammad Azamtarrahian - head of U.S. foreign relations
John Bachmann - John Madden's replacement as football announcer and video game title
Todd Baker - detective
Alex Benedict - nutritionist for Carolina Panthers
Jack Benton - pharmacist
Brooks Best - goes to the CFL and plays for the Calgary Stampeders
Tony Birdsong - R&B singer and musician
Collin Bishop - financial advisor
JT Braun - invents a household robot
Christopher Briggs - electrical engineer
Jack Brittain - prom director in California
Gray Bryant - discovers that he has a long lost brother named Kobe
Tom Bu - world dictator
Galen Bullington - chief surveyor
Landon Bullock - limo driver
Chandler Burgess - fortuneteller
Colin Caldwell - brain surgeon
Will Campbell - FBI agent
Reed Cothron - government statistician
Hunter Crabtree - accountant
Jackson Crook - radio DJ for 107.5
Drew Davis - NHL player
Cortland Daws - archaeologist
Hayden Deakins - WWE Wrestler
Andrew Dobbs - astronaut/first man on Mars
JeTarri Donald - CIA agent
Tommy Douglas - famous painter
Chris Duffey - best little league soccer coach in the country
Sam Edwards - becomes famous after killing world's biggest moose
Andrew Einstman - president of NCAA athletics
Jack Emerson - professional clown
Whit Emerson - correctional officer
Lawson Factor - becomes Guiness world record holder for longest beard in the world
Ryan Flack - paralegal
Mitchell Flautt - MLS referee
Jackson Flora - hosts "Around the Horn"
Lucas Fortune - English professor at Georgetown
Nathan Fouts - trapeze man at circus
John Garrett - defense attorney
Franklin Garstin - Baptist pastor in Florida
Dallas Gibson - pro bowler
Trey Gill - joins the Marine Corps
Jody Gorham - orthopedic surgeon
Andrew Graham -a successful advertising manager
Nicholas Green - journalist for *Chicago Sun*
Bo Griswold - owns clock shop in Bellevue
Taylor Groom - becomes billionaire after winning the lottery
Hunter Guye - hosts popular outdoor show
Dylan Hall - arena football quarterback
Cole Harrison - professional keyboard cover artist
Benjamin Haynes - sportscaster with Furman
Furman Haynes - sportscaster with Ben
James Higgins - becomes owner of the Nashville Zoo
Kamani Hodges - movie director
Chris Hooks - manages a Finnish rock band
Cade Hooper - opens fitness/yoga center
McLean Hudson - nuclear engineer
Wilson Johnson - bass fisherman
Tom Kaiser - stops all deforestation in the world
Andrew Karpos - returns to MBA as tennis coach and Latin teacher
Brandon Key - succeeds Oprah Winfrey
Lucas Littlejohn - cardiovascular technician
Bradley Long - #1 competitive eater in the world
Mark Lowe - Tolkien biographer
Henry Lynch - political analyst for CNN
Jake Macey - jeweler for Genesis Diamonds
Alex Matheny - bank owner
David Maynard - architect
Matthew McCall - Kroger manager
Will McFadden - marriage counselor
Clay McLemore - airplane pilot
John Mellow - historian
Robby Mills - border patrol security guard
Hamilton Millwee - game-show millionaire
Paul Moore - rapper
Penn Murfee - fashion designer
Wesley Nealy - famous podiatrist
Ryan Owen - equestrian who wins Preakness Stakes
Vince Panvini - Italian mob boss
Robert Papel - becomes UPS CEO
Nick Peterson - opens ninja sword shop
Michael Piana - Presidential advisor
Ryan Potter - video game programmer
John Powell - *ESPN*, the magazine, editor
Parrish Preston - tennis photographer for *Sports Illustrated*
McKay Proctor - debate coach at UT
Tate Ramsden - head athletic trainer for Stanford
Clay Ramsey - weatherman for NBC
Jack Rhodes - orthodonist
Joe Richardson - opens an XL shoe and hat store
Madison Rieke - game show host
Quint Robinson - software engineer
Christian Sargent - political cartoonist
Vincent Schipani - host of "ESPN News"
Andrew Scott - actor in Will Ferrell movie
Andy Seay - dentist
Connor Seitz - author of mystery novels
James Sharp -farmer
Jonathan Siktberg - ER doctor
Alex Smith - marries Miss America
Clint Smith - sports agent
George Swenson -Tennessee senator
Hunter Tidwell - professor of bioethics at Cornell University
John Tully - ballroom dancing teacher
Sam Turner - anthropologist
Frank Vest - missionary in Zimbabwe
Jack Wagster - massage therapist
Kevin Wang - invents cure for cancer
Zach Waterman - Wall Street genius
Falkner Werkhaven - judge
John Wheeler - returns to MBA as a calculus teacher and baseball coach
Davidson White - chef at Ruby Tuesday
William Yang - starts popular fast food chain known as Yang's Sushi

by Chris Hooks and Tom Kaiser, Microbe Soothsayers

CLASS OF 2013

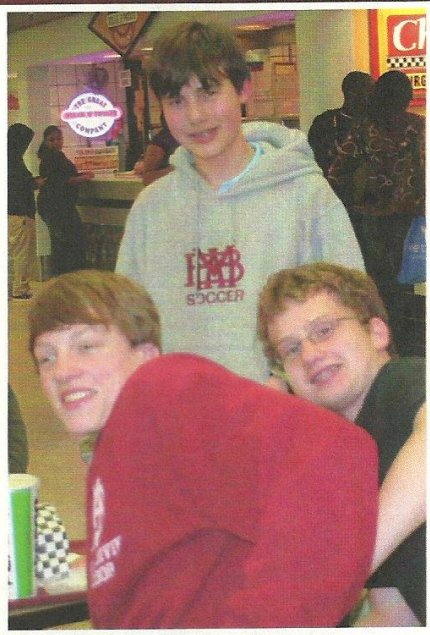
Reflections

by Hamilton Millwee

Over the past year, there is no doubt that you seventh graders have heard stories about the wonders of the eighth grade, including our classes, our teachers, and the trips we take. Therefore, you are probably wondering what to look forward to in the eighth grade and what is mostly hype. Listed below are some of the best aspects of the eighth grade and some tips from current eighth graders about how to survive and make it fun.

1. Math Class: Oddly enough, yes, math class is one of the very best parts about eighth grade. In the eighth grade, math class will be one of the classes that you will actually look forward to, even if math isn't one of your favorite subjects. The teachers make the class incredibly interesting. Whether you have Mr. Thurmond with his constant jokes, Mr. Woolsey with his Woolseyisms, Mrs. Qian with her stories of China and her family, or Mr. Cooper and his teasing of the future Alex Benedict, math class will be a class to be thoroughly enjoyed and long remembered.

2. The Atlanta Trip: All of you seventh graders have been on the trip to Camp Laney. Well, imagine Laney times a hundred, and then you will begin to understand the Atlanta trip. This trip is filled with three days of non-stop adrenaline, starting right from the time the bus rolls into Atlanta. From ESPN Zone, to Six flags, to the Atlanta Braves game, this trip is packed with such a variety of things to do that everyone will leave happy. The best part of the trip for many people is the paintball game. It's always fun to be able to shoot your friends and compare battle scars afterward.



Hamilton and friends at The Varsity

3. Media Day: You get a day off from school (with no homework) to eat pizza, talk to girls, and watch a movie. Enough said.

4. Dodgeball Tournament: Next year it will be your turn to annihilate unsuspecting seventh graders in dodgeball and do so in less than thirty seconds.

Here are some tips on how to survive your eighth grade year. Some of the same tips were given to us last year, but they are worth repeating.

1. Don't give any tips about First Class to the seventh graders; you will regret it. **Chris Hooks**

2. Don't pee in Mr. Thurmond's Wheaties.

3. Don't call Mr. Woolsey Mr. Woosley.

4. Don't kick your shoe around in the gym; it might get stuck. **Nathan Fouts**

5. Try to get a third-period music course or study hall so that you can get to lunch TEN minutes before everyone else. **Jack Emerson**

6. Never give a dollar to a person in Underground Atlanta so that you won't get mugged. **Furman Haynes**

7. Don't bring a Tupac belt buckle back from Atlanta and wear it at school.

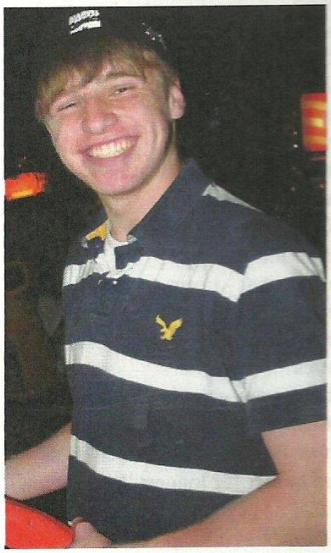
8. Don't use Icy Hot around Mr. Woolsey. **John "The Man" Wheeler**

9. Study for Mr. McMurray's quizzes by doing the smarty-pants dance. **Will McFadden**

10. When in doubt about whether or not that huge project or quiz is due tomorrow… it is. **Jack Wagster**

11. Don't leave your books outside Mrs. Christeson's room or you may find your name on the demerit list.

12. And finally…as an eighth grader, you may feel on top of the world, but don't let it get to your head. In reality, you're still just a microbe.

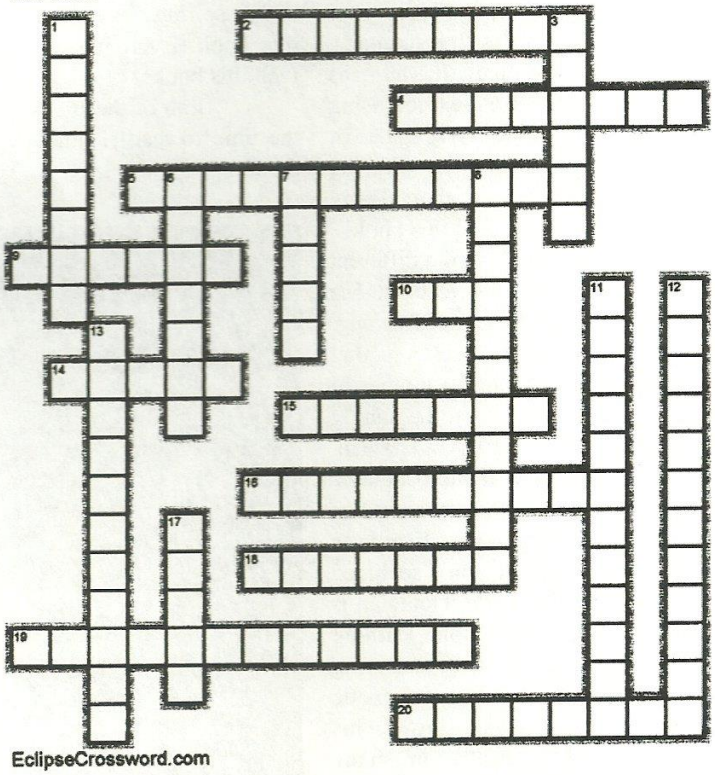


ESPN Zoning Joe

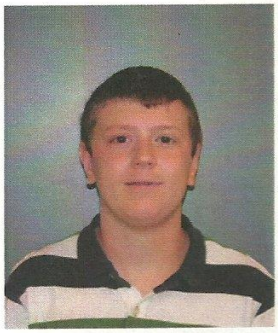
ENTERTAINMENT

Spring Crossword (No spaces if it is a two word answer)

Sam Weien



EclipseCrossword.com



Sam Weien

Across

2. The longest one syllable word is?
4. The biggest city in New Zealand is?
5. The fear of the color yellow is?
9. Bill Cosby went to college at?
10. Will Ferrell went to college at? (Abbreviation)
14. Odontophobia is the fear of?
15. Mario's original name was?
16. The team that has won the most Stanley Cups is the? (Team Name)
18. Yoshida Kogyo Kabushikikaisha is the world's largest manufacturer of ?
19. Whose face is on the ten thousand dollar bill
20. The first athlete to appear on a box of Wheaties was?

Down

1. The most common name in the world is?
3. The 2011 Super Bowl will be in?
6. The city in with the largest airport in the U.S. is?
7. The only food never to spoil is?
8. Saint Stephen is the patron saint of?
11. The capital of Cote D'Ivoire is?
12. What Crayola color used to be named "Prussian Blue"?
13. The largest city in Honduras is?
17. The name of Houston's World Hockey Association team is?

ENTERTAINMENT

Book Reviews

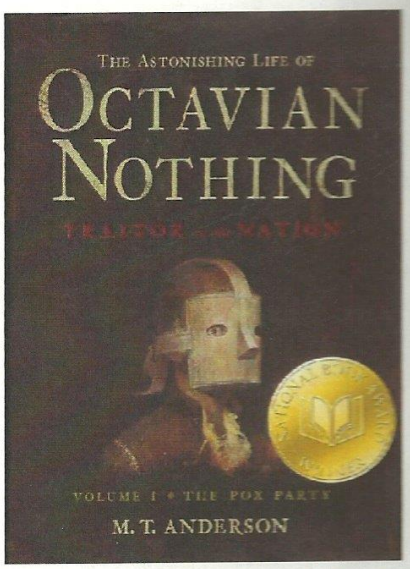
by Robert Papel

I want you Junior Schoolers to know about some great books that I have read recently. These are some really outstanding reads, ones that are hard to forget. Both of these books are part of a series so that you can keep reading about the amazing characters and events.

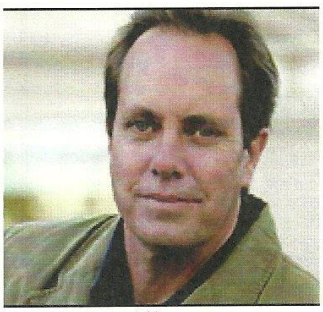
To start off, there's *White Night* by Jim Butcher. The main character, Harry Dresden, is not an ordinary person. He happens to be a wizard, one that can shoot fire out of his fingertips, make things invisible, and make protective shields. This guy is full of tricks. Think of him as a grown-up Harry Potter, without the wand. However, he does carry around a short staff. *White Night* is the seventh book in the series, but it does not matter a bit about which book you start with unless you really want to understand the small details the characters talk about occasionally. The story is about Harry and his close encounters with vampires. These are not your regular run-of-the-mill vampires. They feed off happiness from humans, and if they feed too much, the humans die. Jim Butcher does a great job using imagery and describing Harry's state of emotions during his combat with the vampires. To find out all about Harry Dresden's adventures, read this book!

This next book is of a different sort but still able to hook readers. *The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing*, by M.T. Anderson, is about a young black boy and his beautiful mother in the 1770s in America at the beginning of the Revolution. The boy, Octavian, is raised by a group of philosophers, calling themselves the Novanglian College of Lucidity. They live in a house outside of Boston, secluded from the rest of the world. Octavian is given a classical education, learning Latin, Greek, French, and mastering the violin, all part of some exotic experiment. As Octavian grows, his life changes dramatically in many ways, not for the better. Soon he is able to determine what the experiment is, and how bad it is. Octavian's life is an incredible journey, one that is thrilling and inspiring; everyone should read this book. Even if you hate reading, read this book!

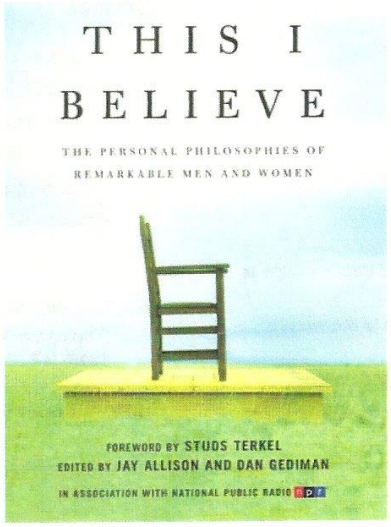
Both of these novels are worth the time to read! I highly recommend them.

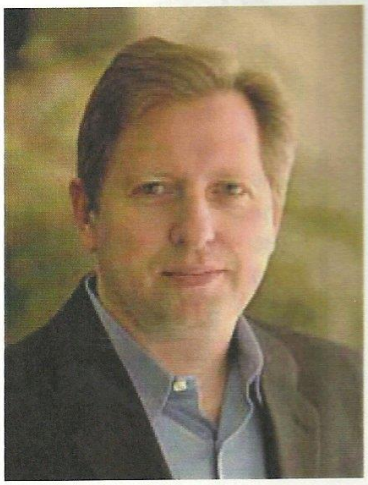


The All-School Read



Jay Allison


THIS I BELIEVE
THE PERSONAL PHILOSOPHIES OF REMARKABLE MEN AND WOMEN
FOREWORD BY STUDS TERKEL
EDITED BY JAY ALLISON AND DAN GEDIMAN
IN ASSOCIATION WITH NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO NPR



Dan Gediman

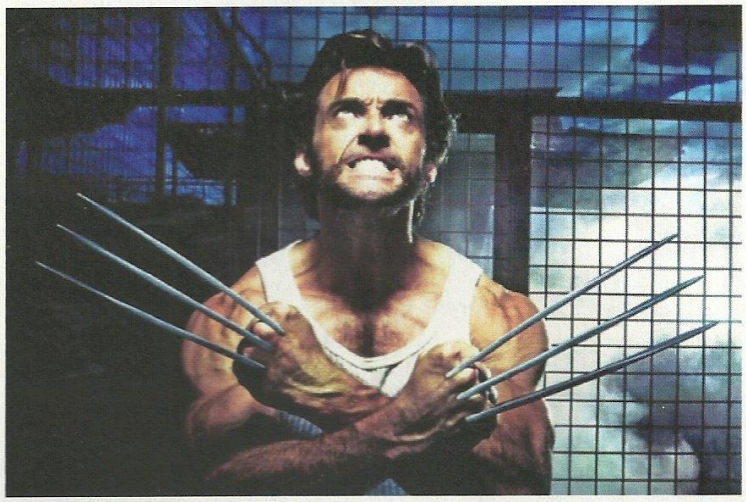
ENTERTAINMENT

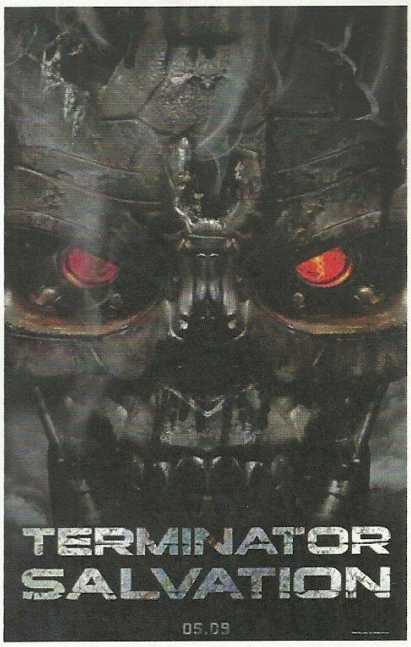
Summer: Movie Time!

by Ryan Potter

Has your thirst for good superhero movies run dry lately? With no comic-book heroes hitting the theaters recently, it's time to forget the old days and welcome the promise that is just around the corner. With a summer ahead full of movies galore, it will be hard to miss any of them. Mega-ultra-super "Summer of Movies" is about to arrive. So if summer reading has got you depressed, get to a movie theater and check out these extraordinary films that have or will soon hit movie theaters.

Check out *X-Men Origins: Wolverine*, the recent installment in the ever-so-popular X-Men series that portrays Wolverine, played by Hugh Jackman, set roughly seventeen years before the first X-Men's movie trilogy.





Coming out next is *Terminator: Salvation*. In this installment of *Terminator*, you may miss the Arnold Schwarzenegger intimidation, but the year is 2018, and Earth is on the brink of destruction. Will Earth be saved or not? Curious? This movie is set to hit theaters May 21st.

Later in the summer, a sequel that will certainly not disappoint is the upcoming movie *Transformers 2: Revenge of the Fallen*. Be ready for this next in the installment of good vs. evil on June 24th. This movie will be the hit of the summer.

Need more reasons to love this summer at the theaters? Well, next we have the sixth Harry Potter film, which has already made about one trillion dollars even before its release. Then, there's another GI Joe movie, where you see good little soldiers destroy bad little soldiers. The summer is looking bright, and I'm already at the movie theater reserving some tickets for these future hits!

Resident Evil 5 Review

by Hunter Crabtree

Resident Evil returns with a new spin on its classic survival horror formula: two player co-op play. The new game is set in a small village in Africa where a strange virus has been turning the villagers into something…else. You play as Chris Redfield with his partner Sheva Alomar, who can be played by your friend in two-player. The game follows Chris and Sheva's investigation of the village until they run into zombies, lots of zombies. From there you have to fight your way through hordes of zombies while conserving ammo and keeping your partner alive. Good luck balancing all of that while keeping yourself alive. Overall, this game is a must-have for any Playstation 3 or Xbox 360 owner.

PIG PARANOIA

Swine Break

by McLean Hudson

Thursday, April 30th: The lacrosse team had just finished our post-practice sprints in preparation for the McCallie Tournament. As we walked towards the locker rooms, ninth-grader Eric Walsh sprinted by. "Where you running Walsh?" The reply: "Someone has swine!"

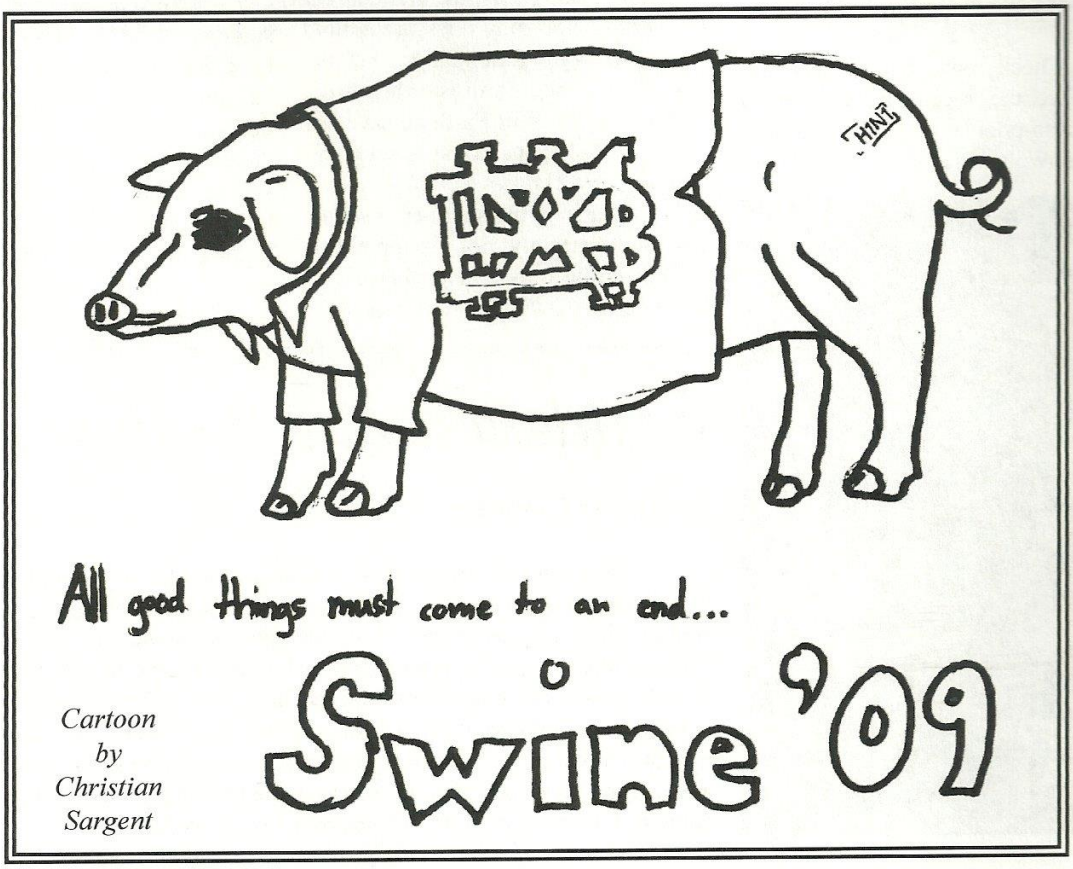
For weeks we had heard about the H1N1, or Swine Flu, outbreak. It seemed so distant, in places like Mexico, the Midwest, and a few cases in the North. Suddenly, it hit closer to home as a student at Harding Academy was diagnosed. People got a little worried, but none of us really thought it would ever make its way to MBA. But it did. As Walsh's declaration sank in, a single phrase worked its way through the throng. "No school?" "No school!" This response, of course, was the initial reaction, but other thoughts soon came.

Of course, some students were worried for the kid who had been diagnosed with the rampant virus, while others were just happy to have a break; most, however, had mixed emotions. From the sports standpoint, this hiatus was not good news at all; it meant that those sprints we had been running for two weeks would go to waste, as we could not play in the tournament. Baseball would also not be allowed to play in the HVAC tournament for which they had worked so hard.

Not surprisingly, a touch of paranoia was also evident. Within twenty minutes, a stash of latex gloves had been found, and many stayed away from the crowds, fearing contamination. In Brandon Key's words: "Don't touch me Reuben, I'll fight you! I might lose, but I'll fight you!"

The break was not what we had hoped. It turned out that we had to keep up with our assignments at home. "No problem, I'll just do it all on Thursday before we go back on Friday." Perhaps not the best idea, but it could be done. And then, a generic "DING" was heard. Big Red students everywhere went to check their e-mails and began to read: "I am happy to announce we will be going back to school tomorrow (Wednesday the 6th)." "NOOOOOOOOOOOOO!" Needless to say, few hours of sleep were had that night, and still not all homework was completed.

The Swine Flu incident was unfortunate, but it did at least provide a break from the same old routine of school. We might as well be thankful for it, even if it wasn't what we were expecting. After all, we never get to enjoy a snow day at MBA!



Cartoon by Christian Sargent

ENTERTAINMENT

A Clean Slate for the Sounds

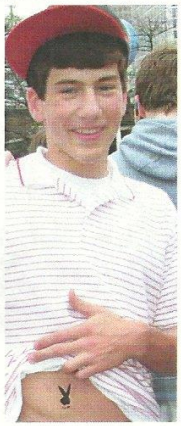
by McLean Hudson

Chances are, you've been to a Sounds game at some point, and you probably remember the bleak stadium. Without any minor league park nearby for comparison, I was unaware of how delapidated the stadium was. That changed, however, when I went on the baseball trip this past summer. We saw incredible parks, the worst of which made Greer look like a pig-sty. The Sounds' Greer Stadium had been voted the worst park in the minor leagues for several consecutive years and needed a makeover in the worst way.

As Mayor Dean mentioned, the new management of the Sounds had decided to renovate the stadium (sigh of relief), and perhaps even build a brand new riverside stadium if the fan base returns. While the changes are more cosmetic than foundational (with one exception), the difference is quite noticeable. That one exception is the new front office building built outside, behind home plate, which doubles as an entrance to the box seats. Much of the stadium received a paint job, grey with a red stripe running through it. Also high on everyone's lists of necessary renovations were the bathrooms, which have been cleaned, remodeled, and painted. The concession stands were remodeled as well, cleaner, more efficient, and with more desirable foods. Of course, these are not all the changes, but the most noticeable.

Out to see the new park on Opening Night were 6,941 Nashvillians. While this crowd didn't come close to filling the stadium's capacity, it is a great deal more than any congregation at that stadium in years past. These fans in attendance witnessed the Sounds take on the New Orleans Zephyrs. Spirits were high, and possibly for the first time in history, a wave made it all the way around the stadium, several times at that. Unfortunately though, a little boy was hit by the flying bat of an opposing player and had to be taken to the hospital. Innings later, the same player ripped a ball into the stands, hitting, but not injuring, the hand of a six-year-old girl. Though these two accidents slightly dampened the spirits of the fans, the crowd level returned as the Sounds fans cheered and jeered the other team, mainly the player who hit the kids. For the first time in a long time, neighbors of Greer Stadium may have had trouble sleeping. Despite a rally in the ninth, the Sounds could not pull out the victory, and the night was capped by a fireworks show.

Will attendance grow as rumors of the improvements spread, or will Opening Night's crowd be the exception? One can only guess. I encourage all of you to go out, see the new Greer, and most importantly, cheer on your Nashville Sounds.



Do the ladies like the tattoo look, Penn?

Docta Luv: Summer Sizzlin'

Guys, the most important aspect of heading off to the good old days of summer is your apparel. You need to be "stylin'," as some people like to say. I'm here to help you out with the styles and dress trends of today. The ladies like it if you know how to dress according to the occasion, which is a skill in itself. Here are some tips:

1. Jeans are always a classic. They are good for movies at night because the weather is cooler. One of the new trends is to wear a shoelace belt. It doesn't do anything, but it looks super smooth.
2. Board shorts for the pool, guys. No more "old man trunks."
3. Flip flops, preferably Rainbow, are key. It is a hit to the wallet but worth it in the long run.
4. Work out, gentlemen. Girls don't want to look at your flat stomach; they want those chiseled abs.
5. Last but not least, t-shirts. You can wear them anywhere, and you can still express yourself with your favorite hobby, team, vacation spot, etc.

WE REMEMBER

Mrs. Bourland's Classroom: Doorway to MBA

by Pat Killian (class of 2010, former *Top of the Hill* columnist)

Entering seventh grade, you do not realize how small you are, how little you know. Grade school is a stifling place of single-file lines and assigned seats, a place where discovery is doled out by a lesson plan. Surrounded by kids your own height and pitch of voice, you little wonder what heights your experience fails to reach.

First period, seventh grade. The doorway to Mrs. Libby Bourland's classroom was, in a broader sense, our entrance to MBA – the Pacific to ones so small – and Mrs. Bourland was there to greet us. Raised in Nashville, a graduate of Harpeth Hall, Mrs. Bourland was deeply imbued with a sense of the school's community. Welcoming us to her English class, she welcomed us to that larger community.

My most enduring memory of that class is its expansiveness. Near the beginning of the year, we were assigned a PowerPoint presentation.

"How are we supposed to bring it in?" I asked. "With a floppy drive?"

Mrs. Bourland stared at me blankly. "Of course. How else?"

It seems simple, but no teacher had ever expected me to act so independently. Mrs. Bourland's goal was never to discipline and stifle; she urged us to grow and gave us the space to do so freely. We acted out scenes and wrote poetry. We were as often in front of the class as in our seats. In the wake of the 2005 tsunamis, Matt Bracy suggested we hold a dodgeball tournament to raise money to send around the globe with the Red Cross; Mrs. Bourland backed our efforts all the way. Our world expanded.

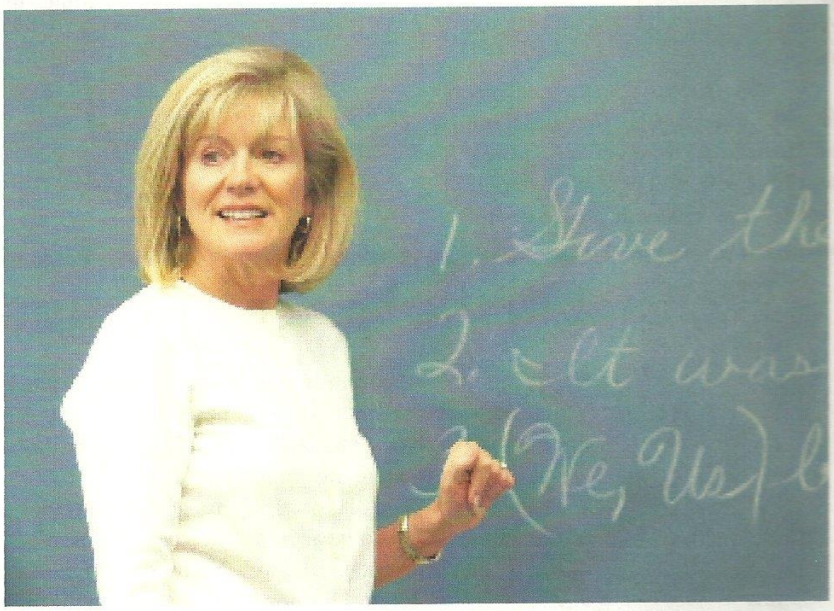
In giving us space, Mrs. Bourland made sure not to throw up personal walls; she never aimed to threaten or intimidate. She sang "Rich Girl" and knew the words to "Grillz," played along with April Fool's jokes, and threw a Christmas party. She was fun, lively, and personable.

Mrs. Bourland's class started our careers at MBA, a period of exponential growth for us all. Now in our junior year, we are members of Totomoi, Cum Laude, and the King Society; participants in football, lacrosse, swimming, basketball, golf, tennis, track, theater, and debate; leaders in the African-American Studies Club, the Service Club, FCA, the German Club, Science Olympiad, Archives, and *The Bell Ringer*.

Gentlemen, Scholars, Athletes.

We thank Mrs. Bourland for teaching us, encouraging us, and never limiting our experience. We thank her for laying the foundation not only of our knowledge but also of our desire to expand that knowledge. In that way, her influence will never leave us.

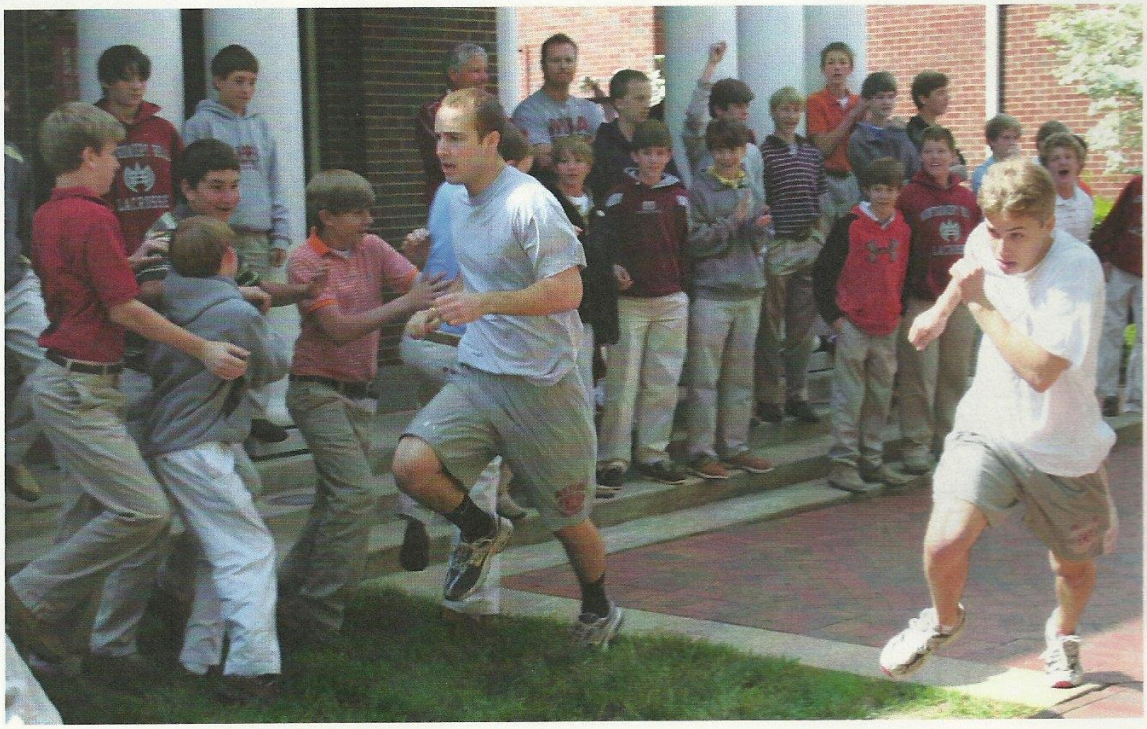
In perpetuum, Mrs. Bourland, *ave atque vale*.



Libby Bourland taught seventh-grade English at MBA from 1994-2006. She was the first sponsor of ***Top of the Hill*** *and* ***The Buckeye****. She was a beloved teacher, colleague, and friend. Mrs. Bourland died on March 24, 2009.*

FOUNDERS DAY

Luke Colbert barely leads the Founders Day competition but then gets caught up in the Junior School crowd. Luke overcame this momentary setback to win the race.

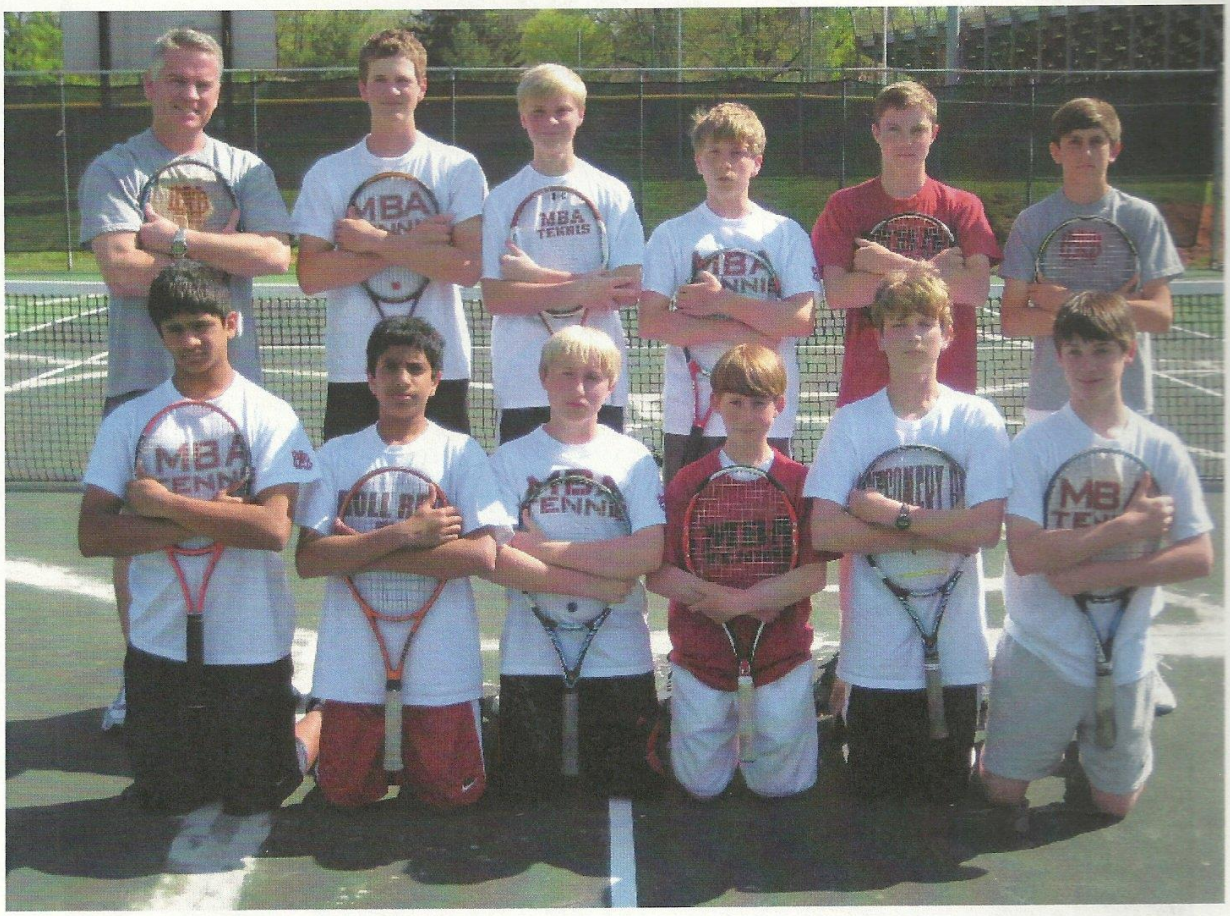


TENNIS

Powerhouse Netters

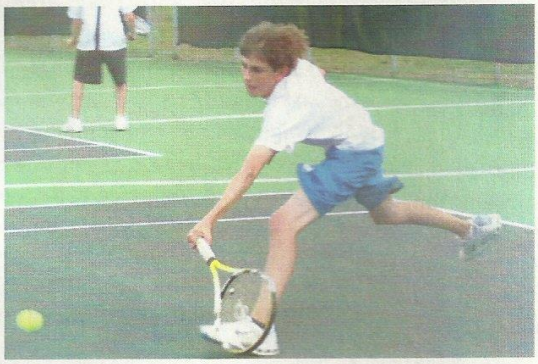
by Parrish Preston

The Junior School tennis team once again established itself as one of Tennessee's major powerhouses, if not the greatest. Under the close watch and coaching of Sean Kinch, the JS tennis team became "the mythical state champion" in his estimation. Demanding perfection from the start, the team had three goals: to win HVAC, to defeat MUS, and to whip McCallie. Of the eleven Middle Tennessee regular season matches, MBA swept nearly every single match, handily going 11-0. Running out of worthy adversaries, the mighty microbes looked to the kings of the West, Memphis University School, for a good fight. Having been defeated last year by MUS, MBA redeemed itself and destroyed them. Unsatisfied with this taste of victory, the team traveled to take on the kings of east Tennessee, McCallie. Even when MBA's best player Andrew Karpos moved up to the varsity tennis team, the JS players stepped up and delivered. The win sealed the netters' record to a stellar 13-0. No less than expected, MBA claimed the HVAC championship title, winning 4 out of 5 brackets. The top performers all year long were #1 singles Andrew Graham, #2 singles Andy Seay, #3 singles Kalyan Chadalavada, #1 doubles Lucas Littlejohn/Mark Lowe, and #2 doubles Fred Harwell/ Will McFadden.

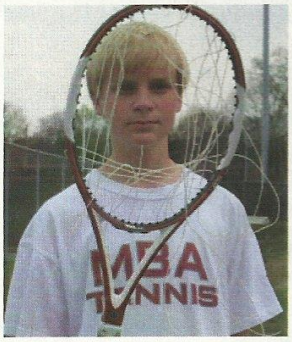


Domination--HVAC Champions

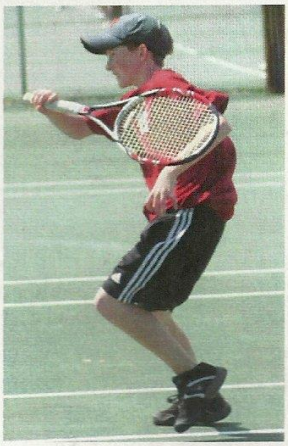
TENNIS



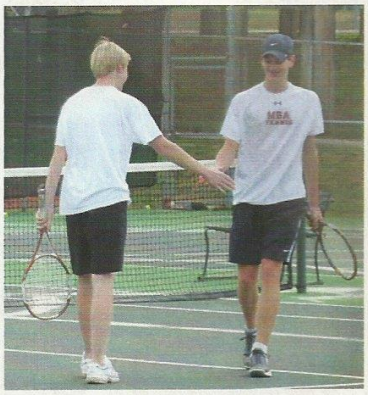
Andrew Graham



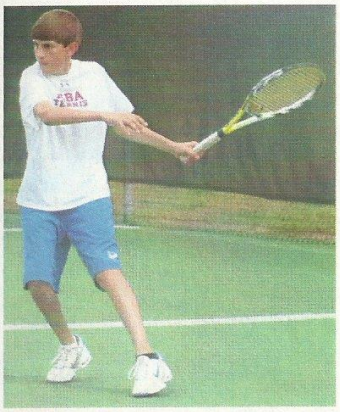
Mark Lowe



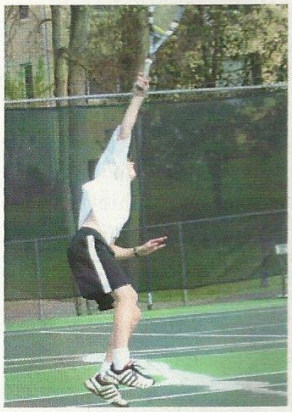
Wilson Vaughan



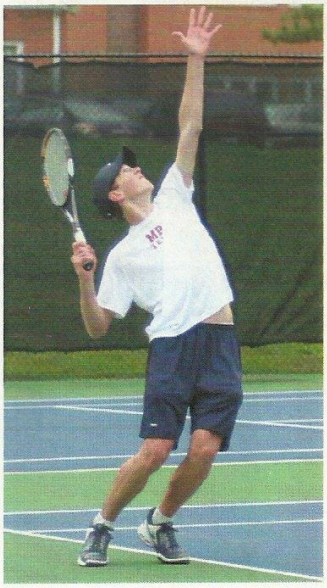
Lowe + Littlejohn=Victory!



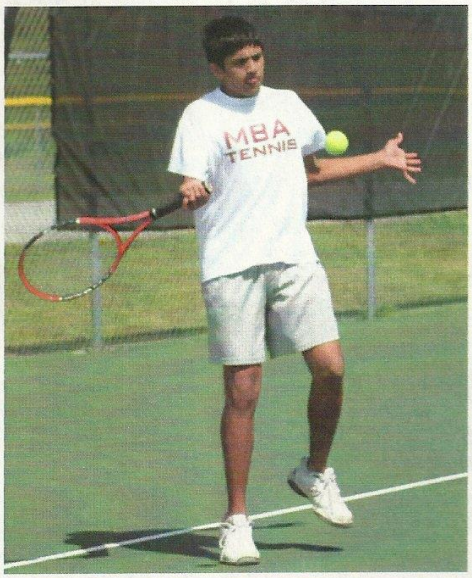
Andrew Graham, again!



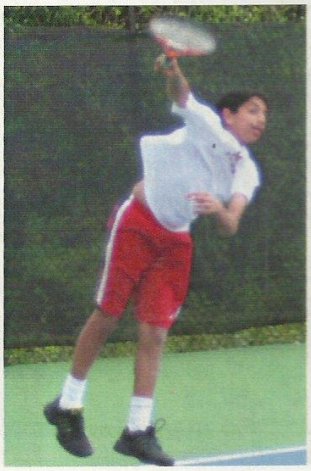
Parrish Preston



Lucas Littlejohn



Tejas Reddy



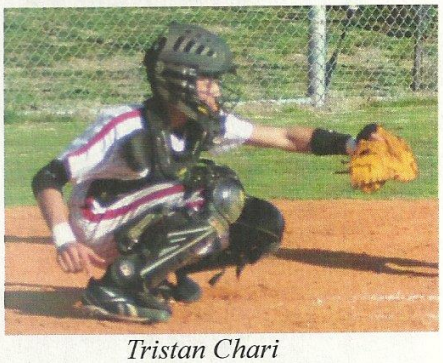
Kalyan Chadalavada

BASEBALL

HVAC Co-Champs

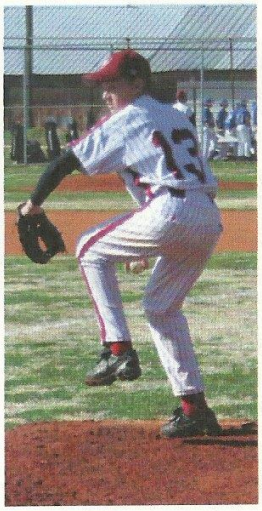
by Penn Murfee

Coming out of the Cougar Classic Fall Tournament at the beginning of the season, the Big Red was looking rather mediocre. However, the microbes pulled away with the impetus of one win and a grand-slam from Wilson Johnson. Coach Scott Pettus, graduate of MBA and a pitcher on the 2004 State Championship team, hit the ground running. Practice increased in intensity, and it paid off. The A-Teamers kicked off their streak with a win over West End Middle. The Big Red kept on working hard before the HVAC league games started and achieved wins over Goodpasture, Ensworth, and BGA, all with outstanding score margins. By the time the HVAC league games rolled around, MBA was peaking. The microbes stomped BGA in the first HVAC game and carried their optimism and vigor to dominate Ensworth, CPA, and BA. The Microbe A-Team baseball game vs. Brentwood Academy was a huge achievement due to the fact that MBA lost to them in football and basketball. Coach Pettus had his eyes set on this game for the entire season. MBA came into the game on top with a stellar pitching performance by Lawson Factor. He was backed up with multiple runs from the Big Red offense, including a solo home run by Penn Murfee in the fourth inning. In the top of the fifth, MBA led by two. Luke Cochran successfully relieved Lawson. Brooks Best also pitched a good solid inning. With two men on base, a high fly ball was hit by the third hitter for BA, which was mistakenly taken for a home run after it bounced over the fence. Despite the one-run deficit, the microbes battled back and took the game in the last inning. The A-Team wrapped up the league games with a mighty win over DCA. After the league games were over, the Big Red competed in a Mount Juliet tournament, which they finished runner-up in to Freedom Middle School after a solid performance. When the HVAC Tournament rolled around, the misfortune of H1N1 (Swine Flu) hit Montgomery Bell, making the team ineligible to play in the tournament. Since the Big Red were undefeated in HVAC, they were named co-champions.

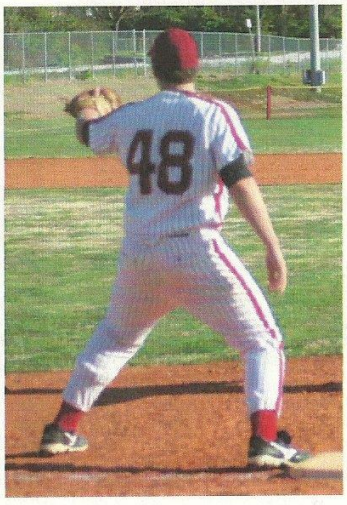


Tristan Chari

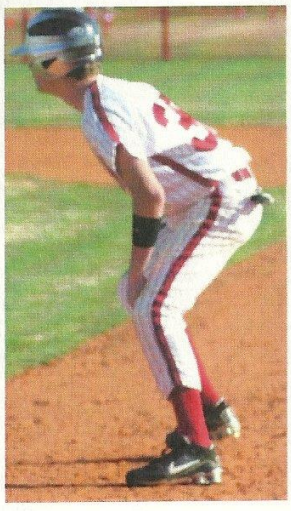
Vince Panvini



Lawson Factor



John Wheeler



Wilson Johnson

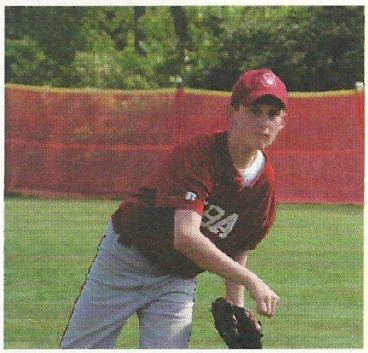
Penn Murfee

BASEBALL

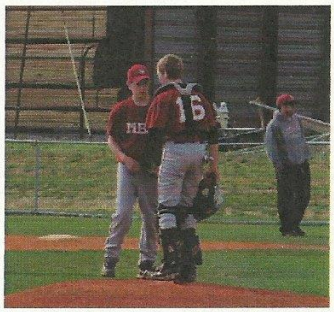
Go-Getta B-Team

by Will Singer and David Harrison

The Big Red B-Team had a very successful season this year, finishing with a 9-3 record. There was a lot of talent on the team, and the squad was determined to win. The B-Teamers had an average nine-run margin of victory overall this season and averaged ten runs per game. Against rival Ensworth, the Big Red won 20-0 in two games. Ensworth totaled only five base runners in both games. All the MBA players saw playing time and had a great experience during the season.



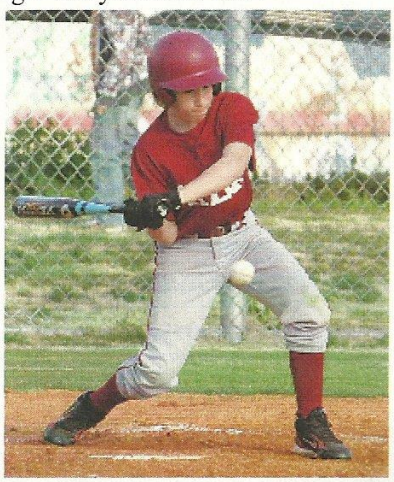
John Tully



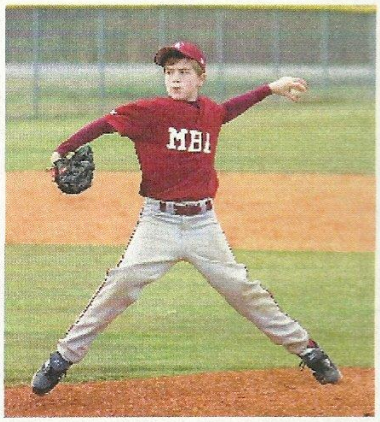
Stroud McMahan gets advice from Alex Benedict.

Alex Bars, Coach Cole Eppstein, and Head Coach Matthew Jacques held down the coaching staff for the team this season. Alex was the manager and did a great job helping out with the team. Coaches Eppstein and Jacques were terrific, and the players learned a lot from their immense baseball knowledge and great instruction. Overall the Microbe B-Team's season was a success.

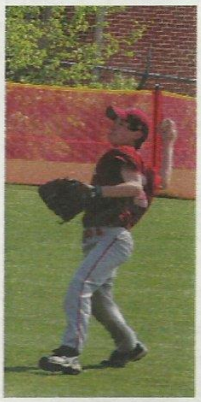
To sum up the season, Coach Eppstein said: "It was a GO GETTAs year!! The HATERS HATED and the GO GETTAs went and GOT IT!! Ya dig!! See you at the TOP!"



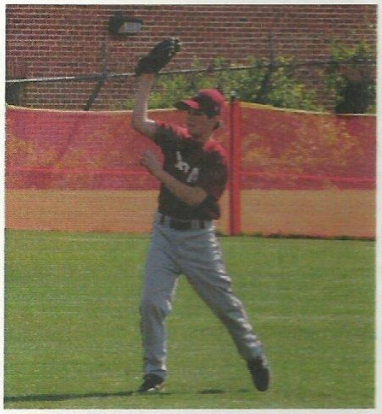
Bradley Bennett



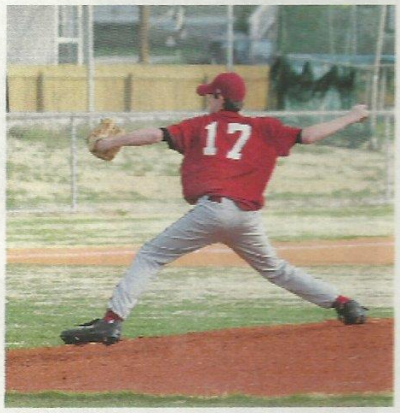
Jack Rhodes



Charlie Hawkins at 3rd
Christian King in left field



David Harrison



Wesley Jenkins

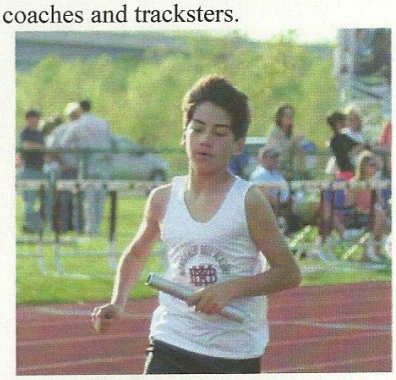
Photos courtesy of Aimee McMahan and Michael Bennett

TRACK

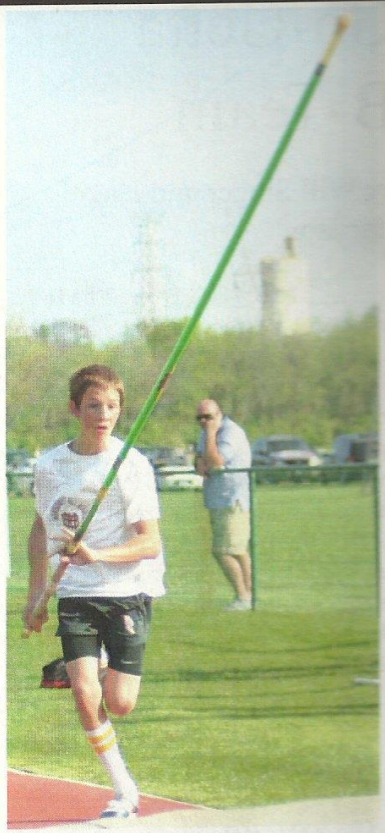
A Bizarre Finish

by Tom Kaiser

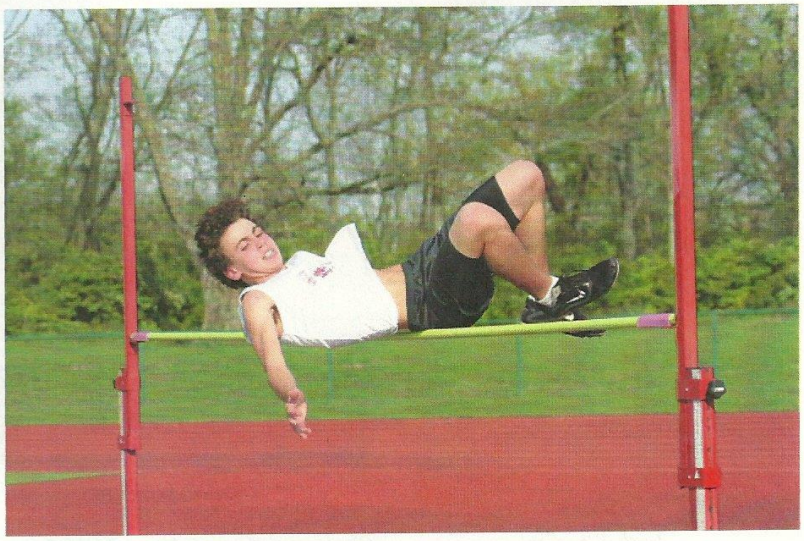
The microbe track team finished its most interesting season in recent memory in the HVAC Championship at BGA. The fifty-plus Junior School tracksters started their season in the biting February cold; they ran, jumped, and threw to the best of their abilities over the following months. The team competed in various meets on tracks throughout Middle Tennessee, running at Ensworth, Brentwood Academy, USN's River Campus, Harpeth Hall, BGA, FRA, and MBA. The team performed well during the course of the season and had a third-place finish at the prestigious Inman Relays while breaking a school record in the 4 x 800 (Alex Smith, Clint Smith, Tate Ramsden, Madison Rieke: 9:12) and the 4 x 400 (Colton Black, Madison Rieke, Tom Kaiser, Tate Ramsden: 3:54.7). The unofficial MVP of the team, Tate Ramsden, broke a third school record in the mile at the Ensworth meet (4:52). Unfortunately, the season ended on a sour note while the team was trying to capture another HVAC championship at BGA. During the middle of the meet, the coaches announced that MBA had been forced to withdraw because a student had the Swine Flu. Even though the team did not accomplish its original goal of winning the HVAC, the members showed class in the midst of adversity. Congratulations to the coaches and tracksters.



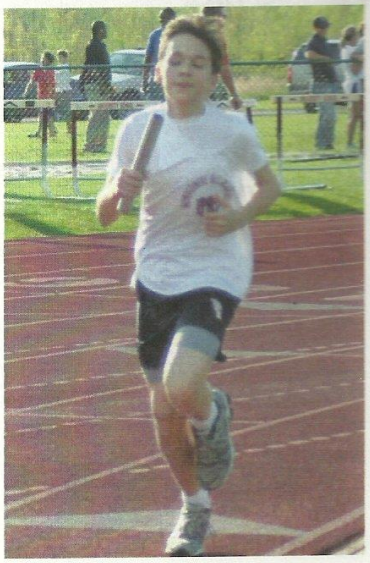
German Martinez



Nathan Fouts



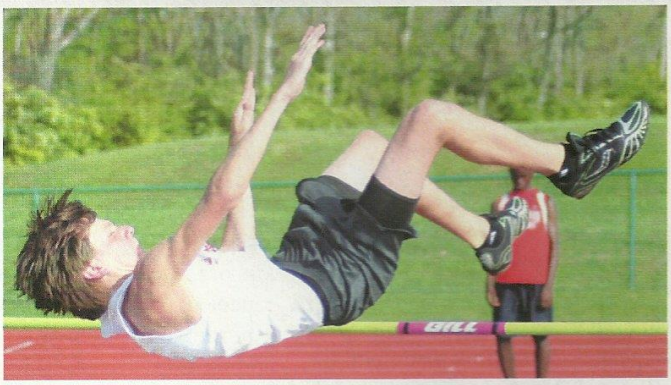
Landon Bullock masters the high jump.



John Mellow

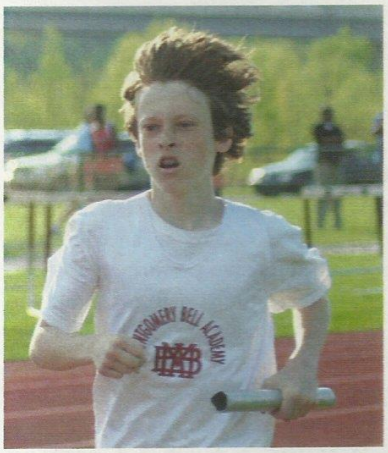
TRACK

Cal Fisher



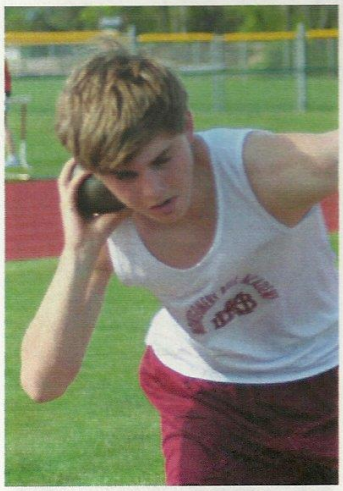
Nick Peterson clears the bar with ease.

Tom Kaiser (Tree) makes the hurdles look easy!



John Michael Gould

Madison Rieke and John Michael Gould are poised and ready.



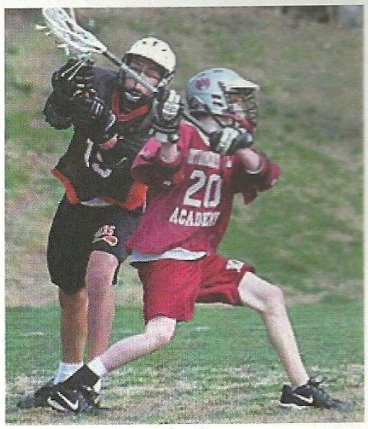
Cade Hooper

LACROSSE

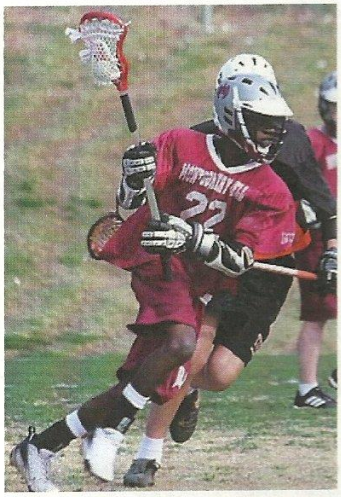
A Fantastic Season

By James Higgins

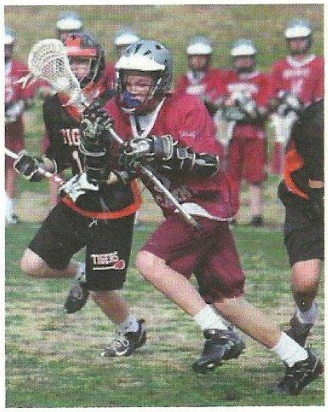
The eighth-grade lacrosse team had a fantastic season to cap off their microbe sporting careers. There were big expectations for this team, and the Big Red did not disappoint. The year started with a strong 5-2 victory over Woodland. Next, the team went into the Nicholas Caroland Tournament and found the offense with an 8-1 win over Brentwood's club team; they defeated Franklin's club team 9-2 to take home the championship. The following week the Big Red was victorious over Grassland A 5-1 in another awe-inspiring defensive performance. After a brief break, the Big Red traveled to Memphis to take on both Christian Brothers' freshmen team and Memphis University School's eighth-grade team. The first game against Christian Brothers was a tough 5-1 battle in which a strong second half gave the Big Red their fifth straight win. After only a couple of hours, the team was ready to play in the closest game of the season against MUS. After being down going into the half, the Big Red came out to play and made a tenacious comeback. Deep in the fourth quarter, they had pulled to within one, but the lack of a stalling penalty let MUS maintain possession for the last two minutes of the game, thus giving MBA their first loss of the season. During a stretch with canceled games and the eighth-grade trip, the Big Red honed their skills to prepare for two back-to-back trademark games. The first came when the Big Red rebounded from their tragic defeat to beat a tough Ensworth squad 6-2. The next day MBA received a second opportunity against MUS. However, MBA was not able to capitalize and fell in a game closer than the score suggests 6-2. The Big Red did not let this loss discourage them, finishing the season with a 6-3 win over Hendersonville and beating Franklin for a second time. Scheduled to play in the McCallie tournament, MBA was devastated to hear they could not participate because of an H1N1 (Swine Flu) outbreak at MBA. Though disappointed, all was not lost when Coach Cooper scheduled a fun inter-team scrimmage on the muddy pit of the lower field. It was a fun way to end a roller coaster season.



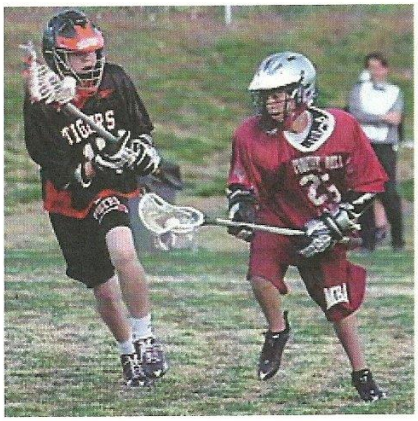
Frank Vest



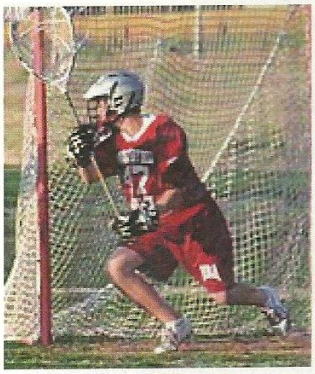
Tony Birdsong



Benjamin Haynes



Jack Wagster



Jack Benton

Eighth-grade lacrosse pictures by Faye Maynard

LACROSSE

Silver Lacrosse

by Nick Trogdon

At the beginning of the year, the seventh-grade lacrosse team was one BIG team. Then, we separated into two teams; Silver and Cardinal. In the first game, the Silver team was supposed to play against Woodland B, but that game was cancelled because Woodland's fields flooded. So, our next game was against Hendersonville B. We won that one 11-2. Our next game was a victory against JT Moore A, which ended with a win by the score of 17-4. We then played against USN and beat them 10-1. However, our streak ended when we played MUS and lost 5-7. Next, we proceeded to lose to Grassland Middle 5-6. However, in that game, Hayden Palm scored three goals. The whole team was going to play in the Middle Tennessee Lacrosse Tournament, but the Swine Flu outbreak prevented our winning that one.

The Silver team had a great season, winning three out of our five games. Wells Hamilton helped us keep the other teams' scores low by being aggressive all season. Even when he left the goal, it usually didn't matter because he almost always got back and cleared out to a waiting middy or attack. Throughout the scrimmage between the Cardinal and Silver teams, Wells had the competition covered. Both teams, Cardinal and Silver, enjoyed the season and look forward to playing lacrosse again next spring.

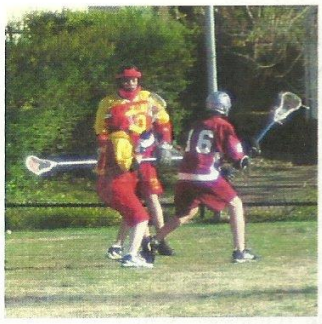
Chippy Evans

Cardinal Lacrosse

by Houston Morris

The seventh-grade Cardinal lacrosse season went very well even though the team finished with a somewhat disappointing record of 0-4. I am sure that if we had played our two missed games against JT Moore B and USN, we would have been 2-4. The team faced mostly eighth graders and on some occasions, JV players. Although we finished with a losing season, the team became much better by facing older players. It would not have been as helpful if we went undefeated against other seventh graders. "Middies" Chase Mathews with twenty goals and Russell Carpenter with many goals dominated the field throughout the season. Michael Buttarazzi, playing as attack, also dominated with twenty-four goals. Our defense was what really influenced the games. The tight defense and brutal checks by Ben Barton gave the opposing team little room to score. Caleb Carpenter had a strong season in the net; he defended the goal well with two scoreless games (while playing with the combined teams). Overall, the Cardinal team had a good experience and learned much about lacrosse by playing older teams. I am sure when we play again in eighth grade, we will step it up and have a great season.

Waiting for a chance to score



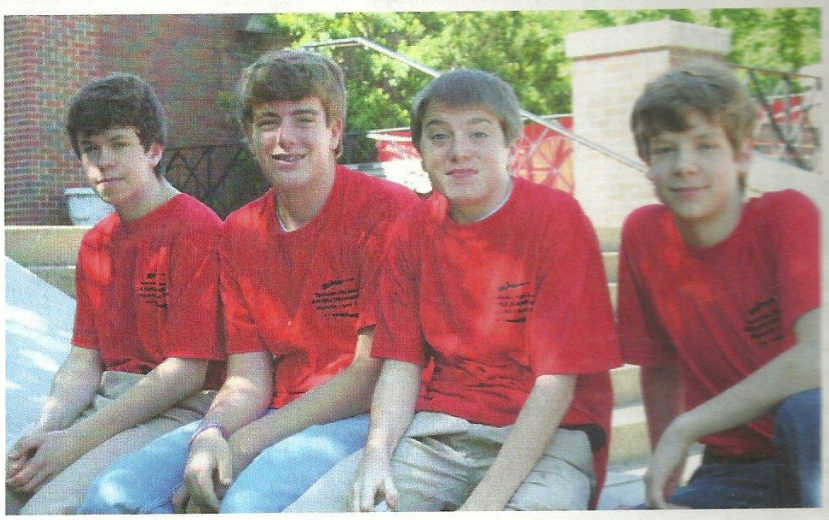
Hayden Palm

Warming up is the hardest part of the game.

RIFLERY

Varsity Shooters

by Chris Hooks



Chris Hooks is surrounded by Hunters: Tidwell, Guye, and Crabtree.

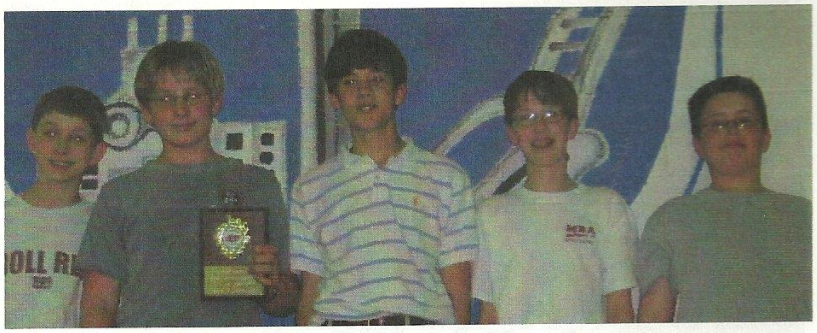
The MBA riflery team had a strong year with many exciting finishes and special awards. The team started the year with a second-place finish at the MBA Rifle Classic, the nation's largest single-rifle competition. After this close loss, Junior Schoolers Hunter Guye and Hunter Tidwell started on their journey to becoming Alpha squad shooters. Hunter Guye made the precision team first, and a few short months later, he took his place on the Alpha Squad. Hunter Tidwell quickly followed him and made the precision squad shortly before the end of the season. He has improved since then and will most likely be on the A squad near the beginning of the summer sports season.

As the spring season rolled around, the BB gunners soon became members of the team and were quick to impress, winning their state championship. The BB squad was then introduced to the sporter guns and has been training to be on the Bravo Squad next year. MBA finished the year strong with a close second-place finish in the State Championship match, also held at MBA, falling only to Blackman High School. Hunter Guye, Hunter Tidwell, and Hunter Crabtree all had personal bests in the match. Overall, the Bravo squad made vast improvements and has given the Alpha squad more than enough sufficient shooters to replace the outgoing senior A squad members next year.

The Junior School Team

by Brandon Carpenter

The Junior School Rifle Team did an excellent job this year. The students who were on the team were Brandon Carpenter, Andrew Dupuis, Henry Ingram, Alec McDowell, Jordan Pugh, and Zach Waterman. The team was coached by Coach Lujan. The shooters had two matches this year: the Bend in the River Competition and the Tennessee State Championship. At the Bend in the River Competition, Brandon Carpenter took first place in kneeling, Andrew Dupuis placed second in the prone position, and Alec McDowell took third place on the written exam. At state, MBA also did very well. Coming in first place in the open division and third place overall, the Junior School Rifle Team ended their season on a good note. Brandon Carpenter took second place on the written exam, and Jordan Pugh took third place in the prone position.



Alec McDowell, Andrew Dupuis, Henry Ingram, Brandon Carpenter, and Jordan Pugh

THE PRO SCENE

NBA

by Davis Lovvorn

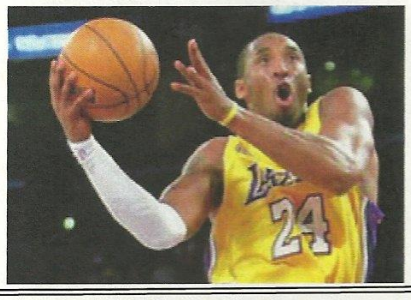
With the first round of the NBA Playoffs over, there have been no disappointments. There have been a few shocking upsets as well as overtime thrillers, but expect the second round to be much more action-packed. In the Eastern Conference, the number one-seeded Cleveland Cavaliers come off a brilliant sweep of the Detroit Pistons to face the fourth-ranked Atlanta Hawks. NBA MVP LeBron James should have no trouble with Joe Johnson and the decent Hawks. Expect the Cavaliers to advance to the Eastern Conference Finals four games to one. The number two-ranked Boston Celtics just finished a thrilling, overtime-filled series against the Chicago Bulls. They will meet the three seed, the Orlando Magic. Dwight Howard, arguably the best big man in the country, should dominate the Celtics' interior game, but the outstanding guard play of the Celtics' Rajon Rondo and Ray Allen, as well as sharp-shooting forward Paul Pierce, should be too much for the Magic. I think the Celtics will win Game Seven in a home-court-dominated series.

In the Western Conference, the number one-seeded Los Angeles Lakers just came off a convincing series win against the Utah Jazz. They will meet the number five Houston Rockets in Round Two. Even with 7'5" Center Yao Ming, the Houston Rockets cannot stop Lakers Center Pau Gasol. Kobe Bryant should light up the floor against the Rockets. Expect the Lakers to sweep the Rockets. The seventh-seeded Dallas Mavericks came off an impressive five-game series win against the San Antonio Spurs, the West's two seed. They will face the three-seeded Denver Nuggets. The Nuggets have arguably the best point guard in the league, Chauncey Billups, as well as high-flying forward Carmelo Anthony. But I think the Mavs' Jason Kidd, Dirk Nowitzki, and Jason Terry to be too much for the Nuggets. Expect a six-game upset against the Nuggets by the Mavericks.

In the Eastern Conference, the Boston Celtics should face off with the Cleveland Cavaliers. With LeBron James, the Cavs are nearly unstoppable. However, with one of the best defenses in the NBA, the Celtics should be able to fend off LeBron just enough for the Celtics to win in six games. Expect the upset.

In the Western Conference, the Lakers should face off with the Mavericks. MVP candidate Kobe Bryant should light up the Mavericks like crazy. Expect at least one forty-point game from Kobe in this matchup as the Lakers sweep the Mavericks.

That sets up a repeat of the Finals last year: the Celtics and the Lakers. Since the Lakers have a higher seed than the Celtics, the Lakers will have home court advantage. The Celtics, missing Kevin Garnett, should get dominated down low by Pau Gasol. But if the Celtics can stop LeBron, why not Kobe? Expect Kobe to get cold in the series as Ray Allen lights it up from three. The Celtics should win in Game Seven.



Stanley Cup

by Nicholas Green

In the 2009 NHL Playoffs, sixteen teams from the Eastern and Western Conference contend for the Stanley Cup. In the Pacific Division of the Western Conference, the Anaheim Ducks defeated the San Jose Sharks in the first round four games to two. The Chicago Blackhawks from the Central Division also defeated the Calgary Flames from the Northwest Division four to two. The Canucks from Vancouver blew out the St. Louis Blues four games to none. The Columbus Blue Jackets were no match for the Detroit Red Wings as they toppled over the Jackets in four games. In the Eastern Conference, the Boston Bruins defeated the Montreal Canadians, being the only team to be blown out in that conference. The rest of the teams had tough competition. The Pittsburgh Penguins fought off the Philadelphia Flyers four games to two. Both the New Jersey Devils and the New York Rangers suffered tough losses to the Carolina Hurricanes and the Washington Capitals. In the second round of the playoffs, the Canucks and Blackhawks face off along with Detroit and Anaheim. Arch-rivals Alexander Ovechkin and Sidney Crosby duel off with their teams the Capitals and the Penguins. Also, the Bruins face their toughest competition yet, the Carolina Hurricanes. My predictions for the playoffs are that the Chicago Blackhawks win the Western Conference and will face the Washington Capitals. Although star Ovechkin is one of the best players in the league, I believe the Blackhawks will pull it out and win the Stanley Cup.

THE BACK PAGE

"I'm ready for high school--bring it on!"

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